Tuesday, November 27, 2007 ★★ Vol. 22 / No. 332 www.inquirer.net

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Gov't revives $120-M JDV 'behest' loan case

By Kristine L. Alave and Leila B. Salaverria

THE PRESIDENT MALACAÑANG ON Good Govt. turned has reconsidered the prosecution of Speaker Jose de Venecia for his alleged failure to comply with a controversial agreement that created an P3.25 billion agreement and P120 million "behest" loan.

PCAB Chair Cesar Drilon yesterday confirmed he had written a letter to Solicitor General Agnes Devanadera and seek nullifying

A MAN takes a walk along Manila's Roxas Boulevard on Monday as coconut trees sway in the wind and rain.

2 storms squeeze Luzon

Lawmakers to grill Teves, Ibazeta over power assets

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE JOINT CONGRESSIONAL Power Commission (JCPC) will grill Jose Ibazeta, president of Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. (PSALM), along with Finance Secretary Margarito Teves next month on the sale of the government's energy assets.

The JCPC wants Ibazeta to answer whether his position as an officer of the assets of Mirant Transmission Co. (Timson) has conflicts in a conflict of interest situation with the consequence of his purported corporate loan, Enrique Razon, in view of the bidders.

Razon, who is close to President Macapagal-Arroyo and her husband Jose Miguel is a chair of

WHEN TWO STORMS DANCE

'Mina' kills 10; 'Lando' makes bizarre return

By TJ Burgonio, Nikko Dizon and Inquirer Northern Luzon

LIKE TWO DANCERS swirling around each other, Typhoon "Mina" yesterday slammed into Isabela and Aurora provinces—on Tropical Storm "Lando" turned around and headed back toward the Philippines, aiming for the Southern Tagalog region.

With Lando's figure retain, thousands of evacuees who had gone back home to Bicol after Mina passed, headed back for evacuation centers to avoid

Roxas takes over LP helm, signals 2010 Palace run

By Dona Pazzibugan and TJ Burgonio

WITH A DISGUISED DARKHORN SIGNAL for a leadership, Sen. Manuel Roxas II yesterday assumed the leadership of the Liberal Party, apparently signaling the launch of his presidential bid in 2010.

LP banners in red, blue and yellow

Makati Business Club: Palace not doing enough

THE MAKATI BUSINESS CLUB (MBC) yesterday criticized Malacañang for not pushing hard enough for the passage of priority bills considered important in reducing the country's global competitiveness.

MBC executive director Alberto S. Lim said his group and the Foreign Investors chambers shared a legislative agenda covering proposed measures involving a consolidated credit information system, tourism, renewable energy fund administration, a code for the proposed industry and amendments to the Customs Brokers Act.

"We observe an apparent lack of leadership [on the part of] the executive department in having these bills passed ... Maybe [Malacañang] is not pushing hard enough for these bills," Lim said in a phone interview.

"Some of these actually almost got passed on the 13th Congress, but [now] they have to go through the entire process again," he added.

Lim said the MBC, whose members include not only big local corporations but also major foreign companies belonging to foreign business chambers, had also observed conflicting positions taken by various executive depart-

DRAG'S restored Rajo—displayed beside the Philippine flag on the shores of the Dead Sea on Mar. 21, 2007, marking 50 years of relations between the two countries.

Israeli flag world's largest: Filipinos made it

MAKATI, BRAZIL—MORE dozens, different Org.

Filipinos rode persons and occupied of Christian Center Salvador Capuno, who last year surfaced the biggest Philippine flag which reached up in shreds, is at it again.

This time, she made a giant Israeli flag.

Based in the ancient Jewish settlement synagogue of Masada, the world's largest flag was unfurled on Sunday, covering a large stretch of sandy Masada.

Masada, the ancient mountaintop fortress in

DISCONNECTS IN EDUCATION

Teachers subsidizing pupils' needs

By Juan Miguel Luz
Special to Inquirer.net

(Editor's note: The writer is president of the ASO International Institute of Basic Research in Asia and is not under secretary of the Department of Education.)

COMMENTARY

WE TALK ABOUT EDUCATION getting the largest share of our national budget. In truth, the real measure is how much we spend annually per child—which is around ... ₱150 (US$3.75/c). Thailand spends more than six times as much at ₱900; Malaysia ₱1,100 a year more.

The sad reality is that it is our teachers who are actually subsidizing the education of our children through their low salaries.

In public schools, the starting gross pay for Teacher I (the school year was pegged at ₱9,000 per month. This went up by ₱1,000 with the 18 percent

Raising super bright kids 'enjoyable, humbling'

By TJ Burgonio

YOUTH PRODIGY JAPANESE MUSseventeen Rob Tarones and his Filipino wife Cecile would be used to it by now—having parented eight gifted children.

Their eldest child, Cy, 17, composes music at random and Rob, 16, can memorize the contents of a book while Aya, 9, solves puzzles with ease.

Like most parents, the Tarones couple marvel at their kids' exceptional abilities and excel in their accomplishments. Rob, 71, tries to downplay their children's gifts, but his wife Cecile, 46, talks passionately about them.

"Being a curious parent who wants to perpetually learn about things that I don't know, I should

THE SUPER-talented Tarones kids: Yeoh, Cy and Aya.

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Fewer rain showers Northern Luzon will experience mostly sunshine Central Luzon will be mostly with isolated rain showers and thunderstorms. The rest of Luzon will have rainy and gusty winds.

Second FRONTPAGE

'Review all foreign-funded projects'

GMA order to ensure all work free of irregularities after WB fiasco

By Christine O. Avendaño and Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

WITH THE WORLD BANK still not moving to lift its suspension of deliberations on the $252-million soft loan intended for Philippine road projects, President Macapagal-Arroyo has issued a string of instructions to ensure that foreign-assisted and funded projects would be free of irregularities.

The instructions, which include a review of the road projects covered by the suspended WB loan, were contained in Administrative Order No. 213.

Cabinet officials, meanwhile, yesterday confirmed the tension spoke of the suspended $252-million WB loan, due to corruption, as they pressed for more time to prepare their defense.

Sen. Loren Legarda, chair of the committee on economic affairs, was visibly irritated by the last-minute decision by the Cabinet members to skip the probe but was relieved that they did not invoke Executive Order 464.

EO 464 prohibits government officials from testifying before congressional committees without the permission of the President.

But Legarda warned that she would hold the Cabinet officials in contempt if they fail to live up to their commitment to attend the next hearing scheduled next month.

Legarda said she received a call from Presidential Management Staff chief Cerge Remonde who cited the "lack of material time" and reservation offers for Typhoon "Milenyo" as the Cabinet secretaries' main reasons for their absence.

AO No. 213

The President issued AO 213 on Nov. 22, the day Finance Secretary Margarita Teves and WB officials held a joint news conference wherein the WB affirmed its commitment to fund Phase 2 of National Roads Improvement and Management Program (NRMP) but only after safeguards had been put in place to prevent the recurrence of irregularities.

Under the administrative order titled "Harnessing Government, Civil Society and Sectoral Groups for Transparency and Overcoming Poverty," Ms. Arroyo directed the Pro-Performance System (PPS) and the Procurement Transparency Group (PTG) to review the road projects and "to report to the President."

The PPS is under the Presidential Management Staff office while the PTG is under the Government Procurement Policy Board, which is now under the Department of Budget and Management.

No surprise

Budget Secretary Rolando Andaya said the AO came as no surprise because the President had already given him instructions to conduct a review of the road projects and his office was "coordinating with the WB on the procurement issue."

"Whether it's Phase 1 or Phase 2 of the NRMP, it's still the procurement process of the WB which would be looked in to," Andaya said in a phone interview, when asked what particular road project in the NRMP would be subject for review.

Before the WB accident, Andaya said the President had given Cabinet officials instructions "months back" to review and strengthen the implementation of the procurement laws.

In her order, Ms Arroyo asked the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission to "report on the suspended road projects and consult with the World Bank and other funding agencies on other anomalies to investigate."

And to ensure that foreign-funded projects would be free of irregularities, the President issued the following directives:

- The PPS and the National Economic and Development Authority must undertake regular consultations with foreign funding agencies to minimize, uncover and address anomalies in foreign-funded projects.
- The PTG must submit a detailed plan for the deployment of civil society observers in bids and awards committees handling projects worth P100 million or more;
- The CPRF must review regulations, systems and procedures for Official Development Assistance and government-to-government projects and recommend integrity and transparency reforms.
- The DBM must source funds for the investigation of irregularities in foreign-funded infrastructure projects.

WHAT'S INSIDE

- **TRILLANES** wants to call Honasan to the witness stand /A9
- **AIR FORCE PLANE** searching for fishermen missing near Kalayaan isles /A7
- **PAMPANGA** 'parol' a big hit with folks in Vienna, Austria /A11

House kills this year's impeach case vs GMA

By Norman Bordadora and Leila Salaverria

DISPELLING THE DECISION OF THE CHIEF minister on point, the administration-dominated House of Representatives in plenary yesterday formally dismissed an impeachment complaint against President Macapagal-Arroyo, effectively shielding her from further attempts to remove her from office the next 12 months.

Voting 189-1, the House threw out the controversial impeachment complaint filed by lawyers Noel Pulido, Only Lagonoy Step, Edgar Sun Lim, Pedrito Calderon, voted to remove the impeachment rules and file an action: Waives Jorge Bay, Edno Jones.

Under House rules, only one impeachment complaint can be filed in a year.

Opposition representatives boycotted the plenary session, accusing Pulido of deliberately filing a later complaint in order of Malacañang.

But in an apparently related issue, Iloilo Gov. Ilolay Suplico brought his rejected impeachment complaint against President Macapagal-Arroyo to the Supreme Court yesterday, asking the court to clarify the constitutional prohibition against multiple complaints.

Suplico had filed an impeachment complaint in September against the Commission of Elections (Comelec) Chairman Benjamin Abalos for allegedly bribery in the National Broadband Network deal. He later amended this to include Ms. Arroyo but said he was prevented from refiling it because of the Pulido complaint.

It is the position of Suplico and six other petitioners that what is prohibited is the holding of multiple proceedings and not the filing of multiple complaints.

They also asked the high court to overturn the decision of the House of Representatives' secretary general Roberto Nazareno rejecting their supplemental complaint that would have included President Arroyo in the impeachment case against Abalos.

Suplico's group said Nazareno overstepped his authority when he refused to transmit the supplemental complaint to the House Speaker so that it could be referred to the committee on justice for proper deliberations.

Joining Suplico in the petition were Iloilo Rep. Augusto Syjuco, Ms. Dominga Padilla, Fr. Joe Dizon, Manuel Buenaventura and Neal Garcia.

They said several impeachment complaints against the President, including those filed by opposition spokesperson Adel Tamano and former Vice President Teofisto Guingona, should have been considered as one impeachment case against Ms. Arroyo.

Pulido's complaint was subsequently found deficient in substance and dismissed.

With a report from Christian V. Esguerra

GMA admits to Tondo folk poverty greatest challenge

By Michael Lim Ubac

SIX YEARS AFTER TAKING OVER THE reins of office, President Macapagal-Arroyo candidly admitted yesterday before the urban poor of Tondo in Manila that poverty remained the greatest challenge facing her administration.

"My country thinks that we have progressed as a nation if we can't uplift the lives of the poor and the hungry in our society," President Macapagal-Arroyo said in Filipino.

Amid her pledging approach using, the President extended during an informal interaction with residents of Tondo's Barangay 20 Isla Dela Ingleses (but her visit of Pres. World during the country would remain an elusive dream) if a large portion of the population continued to be mired in poverty.

"We must stand by our beliefs and faith. It is our long-term goal to belong with the developed nations in 20 years," said Ms Arroyo, reiterating the ambitious goal she set for the country in her State-of-the-Nation Address in July.

To do this, the President again emphasized the need to have a strong middle-class, world-class infrastructure and stable government institutions.

The President's visit came on the heels of a study published by Ateneo de Manila professor, former President Joseph Estrada. Since Ms Arroyo pardoned Estrada after his conviction for plunder, the latter has been making the rounds of poor communities in Metro Manila where he has been warmly received by local residents.

The President has registered an overall disapproval rating of 39 percent, the highest among the country's top five officials, from July to October, according to the latest Pulse Asia survey.

The survey, which tracks presidential performance and issue ratings, found that the President's overall disapproval rating—the level of public appreciation of her work—did not change between July and October.

But her distrust rating increased significantly during the period, increasing by 9 percentage points to 46 percent, Pulse Asia said.

To parry the criticisms that her administration had not made a dent on the poverty incidence, the President argued that the poverty rate had actually gone down since her administration succeeded in producing a million jobs every year since 2001.

"However, we must vigorously talk about the eradication of poverty," she said before the Tondo residents, many of whom, particularly those residing around the former Smokey Mountain dump, had come to symbolize the poorest of the poor in the country.

She said her administration continued to face the daunting challenge of fulfilling its promise to break the cycle of poverty—the overarching goal contained in her "Roadmap to Real Strength to Fighting Poverty" and the Medium Term Development Plan.

The Medium Term Philippine Development Plan is a detailed roadmap toward achieving the common goal of reducing poverty through jobs creation and empowerment, while the Roadmap to Real Strength calls for balancing the budget, reducing debts and enhancing revenue generation.

The President had earlier said that the "basic goal" of the Medium Term Philippine Development Plan for the period 2004-2010 is "to fight poverty and build prosperity for the greatest number of the Filipino people."

With a report from Katie S. Fabros, Inquirer Research

Militants take fight vs Jpepa to world

MILITANT GROUPS ARE TAKING THEIR fight against the Japan-Philippines Economic Partnership Agreement (Jpepa) to international forums.

The farmers group Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas—whose secretary general Ursula Ramos joined the Asian Peasants Coalition (APC) delegation that dialogued with World Trade Organization (WTO) officials in Geneva, Switzerland recently—said the Philippines and other developing countries were misled in the recent summit entering into deals that were detrimental to their people.

Those opposed to Jpepa have claimed the pact would spell economic disaster for Filipino farmers and fishermen.

The main opposition, however, has been against provisions that would allow workers from Japan to enter the Philippines.

Sri Lanka forum

The fishermen's group Pambansang Lakas ng Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas (Pamalakaya) said it would raise the Jpepa issue at the 6th General Assembly of the World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP) in Sri Lanka this week.

Pamalakaya information officer Gerry Arbert Gorpiz, told reporters the group had prepared a resolution urging fisherfolk and environmental organizations around the world to support the Filipino fishermen opposed to the "one-sided" economic treaty that would bring Japanese transnational fishing interests.

The resolution will be submitted to the forum, which has set its new meeting on the 6th edition of Jpepa on Dec. 12.

In a statement from Geneva, Ramos, who is an APC executive council member and its deputy Pagasa Chemicals faced WTO deputy director general Rashid Singh Jaat' minds to talk about the WTO's "fair for all" program.

The program was first proposed at a WTO ministerial summit in Hong Kong in 2005, wherein richer countries would enter into economic pacts with poorer ones from in the same time help the latter develop their productive capacity.

Japanese interests

APC is opposed to "condemnations" that the rich considers include in "Aid for Trade" deals, such as Jpepa, which Ramos said favors Japanese interests.

They said what Philippines and other Asian countries needed were trade treaties in the past but their people ended up exploited by the donors and still economically backward.

Singh, however, said the WTO should not be blamed for the farmers' woes.

"It's your government's fault that farmers in your country are suffering. It cannot sign deals and agreements (such as) the WTO, well aware of its implications," Ramos quoted Singh as saying. Artemio Ating

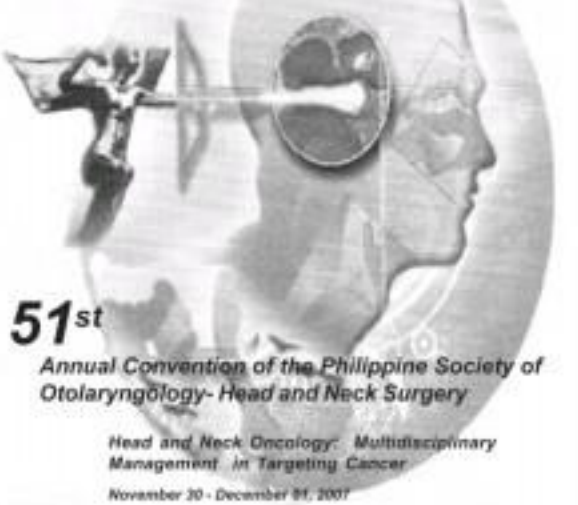
THE PHILIPPINE SOCIETY OF OTO-LARYNGOLOGY-HEAD AND NECK SURGERY

In cooperation with:

12th Asian Research Symposium in Rhinology

The Asian Nose: Are We Different?

November 28 - 29, 2007



51st Annual Convention of the Philippine Society of Otolaryngology- Head and Neck Surgery

Head and Neck Oncology: Multidisciplinary Management in Targeting Cancer

November 30 - December 01, 2007

Convention Venue: Sofitel Philippine Plaza Hotel, Manila, Philippines

Message

Message

SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Head and Neck Surgery

Evolution of Head and Neck Cancer Management
Management of Neck Metastases
Thyroid and Salivary Neoplasm
State of the Art in Nasopharyngeal Cancer Surgery
Surgical Approaches on Nasopharyngeal Tumors
Laryngotracheal Resection and Reconstruction
Laryngeal Transplantation
Minimal Access Thyroidectomy Endoscopic Resection
Physiatric Aspects of Thyroid Surgery (The Larynx and Thyroid)
Endoscopic Head and Neck Cancer Surgery and Reconstruction: is it worth it
Da Vinci S Robotic Surgical System in Head and Neck
Transoral Laser Microlaryngeal Endoscopic Approaches, T1 T2 T3 & T4
Cyberknife Stereotactic Radio Surgery (cancer & a
Quality of Life; Organ Preservation

Multi-Modality Treatment of Head and Neck Cancers

Oncogenetic Concepts in Developing New Treatment Modalities
Immunotherapy
Tomo Therapy: Image Guided Radiotherapy (IGRT)
Targeted Therapy in Recurrent Head and Neck Cancer
Cetuximab (Erbitux) in Combination with Chemotherapy
Celecoxib (Celebrex) in Biomarker Modulation of Oral Precancerous Lesion
Lornoxicam (Prexige) For Pain Manage of Head and Neck Cancer
Neoadjuvant Docetaxel and Paclitaxel
Antioxidant and Chemotherapy Effects
HPV and Head and Neck Cancer: Vaccines? Preventive Oncology
New Prospects in Chemo-RT in Head and Neck Cancer
Molecular and Nutrition Oncology: New Approaches in Cancer Nutrition

Pain Management

Imaging Techniques for Head and Neck Cancers

For Program Schedules: http://www.psohns.org.ph/ARSR

CONVENTION ORGANIZING COMMITTEE 2007

Honorary Chairman, President, PSOHNS
Eutropio S. Guevara, Jr. MD

Overall Chairman, 12th ARSR and 51st PSOHNS Annual Convention
Benjamin S.A. Camporredon, Jr. MD

President, 12th ARSR
Gil M. Vicente, MD

Chairman, Philippine Academy of Rhinology
Josefino G. Hernandez, MD

Secretary General
Rodolfo R. Rivera, MD

Scientific Program for the 51st PSOHNS Annual Convention
Eutropio S. Guevara, Jr., MD
Josefino F. David, MD
Samantha S. Castaneda, MD
Jeanette Marie S. Mahon, MD

for the 12th ARSR
Peter R. Jann, MD

Ways and Means
Eutropio S. Guevara, Jr., MD
Gil M. Vicente, MD
Ma. Fely P. Guzman, MD
Josefino G. Hernandez, MD
Rodolfo R. Rivera, MD

Documentation
William L. Lim, MD
Pamela Louie O. Gutierrez, MD
Erwin R. Lago, Jr. MD

Opening and Closing Ceremonies
Ma. Clarissa S. Fortuna, MD
Michael Edmond S. Dans, MD

Souvenir Program
Charlotte M. Chiong, MD
Keith Romeo S. Aguilera, MD

Trade Exhibit
Antonio H. Chua, MD

Publicity
Frederick T. Hewson, MD
Donna G. Donato, MD
Angelo A. Flores, MD

Socials
Joan A. Romualdez, MD
Emma B. Dulnuan, MD
Rebecca R. Feliciano, MD
Mary Arlene A. Bongasia, MD

Registration
Felix P. Rosario, MD
Edgardo R. Mendoza, MD
Dwight T. Aldip, MD

Golf
Francis V. Roxas, MD
Josefino G. Hernandez, MD

Conference Secretariat
Meetings, Exhibitions and Events Team Inc.

THE PSOHNS BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2007

President: Eutropio S. Guevara Jr., MD
Vice President: Charlotte M. Chiong, MD
Secretary: Alexander L. Labrador Jr., MD
Treasurer: Antonio H. Chua, MD
Auditor: William L. Lim, MD

Members: Eduardo R. Jimenez, MD; Benjamin Campomanes Jr., MD; Edwin R. Lopez, MD; Jacob S. Mabalay, MD; Francisco A. Rimando, MD; Cesar Anthony P. Yabut, MD

Immediate Past President: Reinhard A. Ignacio, MD, MSCI for Del
PSO-HNS President: Rolando I. Jara, MD

CHAPTER PRESIDENTS
Mario G.R. Tolentino, MD (S.Luzon)
Pio R. Rojanillo, MD (S. Luzon)
Philip D. R. Rios, MD, DMD (Bicol)
Eduardo R. Jimenez, MD (C. Visayas)
Rhodora L. Jardeleza, MD (W. Visayas)
Gil A. Yana, MD (E. Mindanao)
Jesus A. Jardin, MD (NW Mindanao)

Trusted Quality Healthcare

Matuhay Miles Visa
A PAL Roundtrip Ticket or a Mango Bracelet Watch?
Whatever you fancy is yours FREE.
MANGO
Get a Matuhay Miles Visa and take off with a free domestic roundtrip ticket via Philippine Airlines.
Or get the perfect fashion accessory for your new RED MasterCard – a free Mango bracelet watch.
No guesswork. No raffles. Just pick your fancy and apply now!
Call 1-(02) 85-880
Click www.hsbc.com.ph
Visit your nearest HSBC branch
HSBC
The world's local bank

SLIMMERS WORLD
BUY 1 MONTH, GET 1 MONTH
FREE!
NO MONTHLY DUES
ON LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP*
PLUS!
PERSONAL TRAINING
& ALL THE
LATEST AEROBICS.
BIKINI BODIES 2008
Lost 20 lbs.
BUY 15
TREATMENTS
GET 15
FREE!!!
ADVANCED LASER
TREATMENT
Best Price in the Philippines
INTRODUCING...
ULTRALIFT
LOOK 5 YEARS YOUNGER IN JUST 30 MINUTES
CALL OUR ONE-STOP
SUPER CENTERS FOR
FITNESS, SKIN, BODY
AND FACE.
FITNESS HOTLINE: 536-3333
SKIN HOTLINE: 525-8771
MOBILE NUMBER: 091-SLIMMERS
(75466377)
SMOOTH THOSE LUMPS & BUMPS WITH
BIOMETRICS!!!
www.slimmersworld.com.ph inquire@slimmersworld.com.ph

2 storms squeeze Luzon

By [illegible]

Luzon's renewed onslaught, relief officials said.

As if the two storms were not enough, another low pressure area has also formed east of the Philippines, with the prospective name of "Reming."

Mina triggered waist-deep floods in places, drowning two villagers in Cagayan, and bringing to 20 the number of people it has killed since it began lashing the country the weekend.

Some 400,000 people had fled to evacuation centers to avoid Mina's powerful winds, the National Disaster Coordinating Council (NDCC) said.

Lando swirled back to the Philippines at about 9 a.m. yesterday after crossing Vietnam. It remained the country the same way it left last Wednesday—through the northern part.

Lando killed 14 people in the House in its first rampage last week.

UNMINDFUL of the big waves caused by stormy weather, a swimmer frolics in the surf in Manila Bay on Monday. [illegible]

Fujiwhara effect

"This is an offshoot of the Fujiwhara effect, where two weather systems with sufficient distance between them would interact," Nigata weather branch chief Sarbasol Gan told reporters.

"If Mina isn't around anymore, Lando would not come back."

This condition happens when two storms come in almost opposite positions at a single point. (See illustration on front page.)

After hitting Isabela, Mina's sustained winds were 65 kilometers (28 kilometers per hour, with gusts of up to 150 kph. It was forecast to bring stormy weather over Batanes, this morning, according to the weather bureau.

Pagasa issued storm signal No. 1 over the Batanes group of islands, Babuyan group of islands, Calayan, Gattaran, Alcala, Amulung, Enrile, Iguig, Tuguegarao City, Solana, Penablanca, Baggao, Peñablanca, Rizal, Lal Ibatan and Sanchez Mira.

Signal No. 2 was hoisted over Isabela, Ifugao, Mountain Province, Benguet, La Union and Ilocos Sur.

Troublesome Lando

Signal No. 1 was raised over Aurora, Quirino, Nueva Ecija, Nueva Vizcaya, Tarlac and Pangasinan.

Mayo Bautista will continue its rapid-fire attack tomorrow with countdown. Cruz said.

Mina is moving north northeast at 11 kph and is expected to join Wednesday to storm out of the country toward Okinawa, Japan.

Now Lando is picking maximum winds of 90 kph and is expected to hit Palawan tonight, bringing stormy weather also over Mindoro, according to Cruz.

The bureau raised storm signal No. 2 over southern Palawan, including the Calamian group of islands, and signal No. 1 over the rest of Palawan, including Cuyo Island, Cuyo and Mindoro and Occidental Mindoro, including Lubang island.

It is rare for a storm like Lando to swing back to the country's East coast.

It could be even more rare if the low pressure area spotted east of the country yesterday should also enter the Philippine area and join Mina and Lando at the same time, Cruz said.

"There is a low pressure area that has the potential to strengthen. If it enters the country, it will be named Storm No. 19 possible we will have three storms in the Philippine area of responsibility," he said.

Deadly succession

Pagasa records revealed that another storm a few years ago had also made a near-identical and hit the country after making an initial exit.

It is not strange for the Philippines to suffer storms in closely succession.

In November 2004, after Typhoon "Unding" battered the country Tropical Depression "Violeta" passed over. Five days later, Typhoon "Winnie" struck, followed by still another typhoon.

The return of Lando sent 6,000 people flooding back to evacuation centers from Isabela and flood-prone areas in Bicol.

As of 6 p.m., the NDCC said a total of 88,317 families, or 399,000 persons, had been evacuated in 11 provinces in regions 2, 3, 4a and 5 affected by Mina.

A substantial number of the evacuees have gone back home, mostly in Bicol.

Defense Secretary Gilbert Teodoro said the government's preparedness lessened the damage brought by Mina and Lando, that he stressed the need for vigilance while the two storms had not yet exited the country.

At least two people drowned when water levels rose in streets in Aparri and Cagayan on Sunday and Monday due to energy unleashed by Mina, reports gathered by the bureau showed.

A landslide dumped a section of the Pinugo Bridge in Bagabag, Nueva Vizcaya, making it impassable to all types of vehicles, the provincial disaster coordinating council (PDCC) said.

Floods also hit low-lying villages in Aparri, Isabela, Cagayan, Pangasinan and Batanes.

The Office of Civil Defense in the Cordillera said Ramon Isibella, 79, drowned in Gonzaga town when his house near the swollen Aparri River was washed away by a strong current.

Two other Gonzaga residents—Rainier Abarong, 2, and Felipe Abarong, 65—were missing after their boats were also swept away.

In Cagayan, Jaspon Rebillardo, 20, drowned while he was crossing the flood River, police said.

Landslides, power outages

Power outages occurred in Cagayan, Isabela, Nueva Vizcaya, a landslide isolated the capital town of Ilabayao.

Flooding swamped several villages in Conner, Flora, Sta. Marcela, Luna and Pudtol towns, also in Apayao.

Landslides and rising water levels forced the evacuation of 1,440 families in Apayao and nearby Kalinga, DCB said.

Rains have not yet breached the critical dam levels of Binga and Ambuklao Dams in Benguet, and the San Roque Dam in Pangasinan.

Authorities opened up gates each in Binga and Ambuklao as a precaution to prevent an unscheduled overflow. Cruz disclosed.

In Isabela, Bambanasen sub-municipal in Isan[illegible] villages in Ilagan and Tumauini. More than 1,000 families in the coastal town of Dinapigue were evacuated.

Power supply in several towns in Isabela was cut off as [illegible] Additional reporting by Jerome Aning, Jeannette Andrade, Jaime Laude, Jhoanna Ballaran

Oil price hike protests held

By Tina G. Santos
and Jaime R. Ballesteros
Inquirer Visayas

SOME 500 MEMBERS OF A MAJOR transport group yesterday staged a march to protest the rising oil prices but were stopped by riot police from proceeding to Mandaluyong bridge in front of Malacañang.

The protesters, members of Pinagkaisang Samahan ng Tsuper at Operator Nationwide (Piston), staged an hour-long rally on Mendiola Street instead—causing a huge traffic jam in the vicinity both—in protest their demand for the suspension of the Oil Deregulation Law and the removal of the value-added tax (VAT) on oil products.

The Piston jeepney drivers rally is part of a nationwide series of protest actions preparatory to the holding of a general strike in December, said George San Mateo, secretary general of Piston.

San Mateo said "selective" transport strikes were also held in Batangas and Laguna yesterday.

In Metro Cebu, jeepney drivers allied with the Naghiusang Drivers in Sugbo (Nadia) staged a protest caravan from Mandaue City to Plaza Independencia in Cebu City demanding government approval of their hike.

Rudene Pastino, secretary general of the group, said their 5,000-strong group would join Piston's planned nationwide transport strike next month if the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board does not grant their petition to hike the minimum fare from P6 to P7.50.

He said the LTFRB did not approve the fare hike in Cebu despite higher gasoline prices, after a consumer group there filed a petition asking for its postponement.

Another transport group, Ang Nagkahiusang Operator alang sa Responsive Dualan's, said it would ask for P2 fare adjustment.

Anakan vice chair Romeo Arnaiz insists the drivers could no longer bear the increase in the prices of lubricants, batteries, tires and spare parts.

At the same time, Benjamin Yu, managing director of Cebu-headed Transport Services Cooperative (Transer), said some 2,000 taxi drivers in Cebu also intend to file a petition seeking an increase in the flag-down rate from P30 to P35 and in the succeeding kilometer rate from P5.50 to P6.

LTFRB acting regional director Reynaldo Illano urged the drivers' associations to file their petitions as soon as possible so the agency can take action.

PAF plane missing

ONE OF TWO MIL-ian jets on a search mission near the Kalayaan island group in the South China Sea yesterday is feared to have crashed near the Kalayaan island chain, the Philippine air force said yesterday.

The S-211, an Italian-made trainer plane acquired by the PAF in the early '90s, went missing off Pag-Asa Island while flying in tandem with a similar aircraft both out of Antonio Bautista Air Base in Puerto Princesa City.

Fishing vessel

The planes were searching for a Philippine fishing vessel, the FB Vir Jesus 101, with 26 crew members which sank off Pag-Asa last week due to the strong winds brought by Typhoon "Lando."

Only the backplane returned to base at 11:30 a.m. It had made contact with the missing plane an hour before that.

"The details were not thick but they spotted a wide area. The two aircraft entered the clouds at 6,000 feet. The lead plane talked to the wingman to ask if they could see him. The lead pilot decided to go up to 9,000 feet," PAF chief Lt. Gen. Horacio Ildefonso said.

No answer

"At that point, when the lead plane tried to contact the wingman, there was no answer," he said at a press conference yesterday afternoon.

Ildefonso said the airmen had nothing to do with the typhoon that hit the country in the weather was good when they were at the time.

In the missing two seven aircraft were pilot Capt. Gerbar Mercado Jr. and copilot Capt. Bienvenido Soriano III.

On the request of the PAF, a US military P-3 Orion, a maritime patrol aircraft, was dispatched from Clark Air Base in Pampanga to assist an aircraft searching an 80-km radius from where the S-211 had last made contact. A Philippine Navy ship was also called to help look for the plane. Dave Quintandio, with Geraldine Tiño, Contributor

EAR DIAGNOSTICS INC.
Hearing Health Care Partners of Siemens Medical Instruments

BRANCHES:
MANILA
CEBU

People's Choice
SUPER BRAND
GOLD 2006
GOLD 2005
PLATINUM 2004
GOLD 2003
GOLD 2002
GOLD 2001
GOLD 2000
GOLD 1999
TRUSTED BRAND 2007
PLATINUM

PILOT
Experience the Ultimate writing instrument
V5 & V7
Hi-Tecpoint

BX-V5
BX-V7

Philippine Exclusive Distributor
COSMOS BAZAR, INC.
571 Q. Paredes St., Binondo, Manila
PILOT CORPORATION

Only the best can make you feel better.
St. Luke's Medical Center
One of the world's best

This Christmas, Give The Gift of Health.

We know wishing matters more to you than the health of your loved ones. With St. Luke's Health Gift Certificates, you take care of that concern and a whole lot more. You give your loved ones the gift of health and underprivileged patients the gift of hope. Purchase gift certificates in P500 and P1,000 denominations, or for specific services, and make the wise decision for everyone this Christmas.

Part of the proceeds will benefit the St. Luke's Social Service Program.

For more information, call 849-MYMD(6963).
Free delivery within Metro Manila until January 31, 2008

An International Affiliate Of
Bear Kira Presbyterian Hospital
Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons
Weill Cornell Medical College of Cornell University
and
Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center

TRUSTED BRAND 2007

279 E. Rodriguez Sr. Blvd., Quezon City 1102, Philippines • Telefax: 723-0101/0301 • Email: info@stlukes.com.ph • Website: www.stlukes.com.ph

Teachers subsidizing pupils' needs

Front page A1

norms the Board increase its pay by government workers. Machinery dictorites for increase and the GSIS, Pag-Ibig and Philhealth premiums result in a net take-home pay of around P8,200 per month—still below a decent middle wage by any standard.

In private schools, the situation is more bleak.

Elite schools (such as theirs and La Salle) can afford starting salaries of P15,000 or higher—30 percent more than the starting pay of a public school teacher.

The situation for teachers in nonelite private schools is the reverse. In El (school year) 2005-2006, the DepEd's average salary for Teacher I was already pegged at P9,980 per month, the Catholic Educators Association of the Philippines reported an average starting monthly salary of P5,603 (secondary) to P5,968 (elementary) for nonelite schools run by members' schools.

Amazing: a 38 percent increase every year for the past four years, the unrecognized average in 2007 would be P7,000 for high school teachers and P6,700 for those in elementary school. The salary levels are still 30 percent less than the DepEd's starting pay for teacher Today. With mandatory deductions, net take-home pay for teachers in nonelite private schools would be even lower at P5,600 to P6,500.

How teachers survive

How do teachers survive with such low pay? Through salary loans and private borrowing.

In 2005, the Department of Education (DepEd) took a survey (or look at salary loans from private lending institutions (PLIs) which is utilized by the automatic payroll deduction scheme.

Analysis of payroll slips revealed that over 400,000 teachers and nonteaching personnel under the DepEd had an estimated P94 billion in outstanding salary loans from around 300 PLIs. This means an average loan of slightly over P50,000 per teacher over a 12-month period at an average interest rate of 7% (5 percent per annum [as one-time rate per month].

On top of this burden, public school teachers have an estimated P15 billion more in salary loans from GSIS, the state pension fund, which was also repaid through automatic payroll deduction.

Furthermore, loaning from from GSIS and Pag-Ibig added another P25 billion in personal debt to be amortized over longer periods of time.

All told, less than half a million public school teachers and nonteaching personnel had a total personal debt of over P94 billion in 2005.

Older married teachers borrowed again every three to four to fund school fees of their children (especially college); younger teachers borrowed irregularly for appliances and events. A good number also borrowed to help out extended families.

'London' environment

Borrowing to make ends meet has been so prevalent among teachers that it has become a point of humor. The DepEd's majority are "over-borrowed" with the common remark that they live in a "London" environment ("loan dito, loan doon").

The General Appropriations Act now establishes a minimum take-home pay for members of DepEd, GSIS and Pag-Ibig. If this is not enacted, a significant percentage of teachers would have no monthly take-home pay.

In 2005, the DepED also discovered that no PLIs could use the automatic payroll deduction scheme if they charged more than 18 percent interest and more than 5 percent of the principal in processing fees.

The current policy has resulted in an average real effective interest rate of 24 percent (versus the 7% 5-percent before). By by applying lenders were taken out of the system, and payroll slips were redesigned so that PLIs would know it's a teacher had ever borrowed.

Still, many teachers find ways to borrow even more so they shared. Unbureaucratic, they end up resorting to the once-in-heaven "5-6" type of lending.

Pay below other professionals

In public schools, a meager government budget (despite the large share for the DepEd) keeps teacher salaries well below professionals in other fields.

In nonelite private schools, teachers have even lower salaries. What parents cannot afford are absorbed by teachers as a de facto cost to pay.

Compare this to what new graduates make as call center agents and you get the picture.

"We cannot hope to invite the best and the brightest to the teaching profession unless teacher pay is improved.

Starving school coffers

Another classroom in the red-ink zone is that the majority of children start school late.

In 1995, policymakers set this every age for Grade 1 as 6 years old, consistent with worldwide

THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL on June 4, 2007, saw some students sitting on the floor at the Batasan High School in Quezon City due to the shortage of desks. (INQUIRER)

experience.

As decade later, however, only a little more than a third (38 percent) of all Grade 1 pupils are actually 6 years old—the "right" age. More than a third (39 percent) start school at 7 years. The rest—almost one quarter (23 percent)—begin at 8 years or older.

Once the starting age matters! It does.

In 2005, the DepEd prepared a 10-year budget simulation study to determine how much we should invest annually in education in the national budget through 2015.

Disturbing trend

At the elementary level, a disturbing trend was revealed. Since the start of SY 2000-01, enrollment had grown by only an average of 0.5 percent a year.

With populations growing at slightly more than 2 percent, this does mean that parents have not been enrolling their children in school. Or was the dropout rate so high as to lead to such low enrollment growth over the six-year elementary cycle?

Further analysis showed that the school level (Grade 1 pupils in a given year matched the number of 6-year-olds that the National Statistics Office estimated nationwide for that year.

Hence, it appeared that almost 100 percent of all 6-year-olds were in fact being enrolled. What subsequent analysis revealed, however, was that only a little more than a third of all 6-year-olds were attending Grade 1 at the right age. The rest were normally older by one year or on average by two or more years.

'Right age' kids

In analyzing the data further, it appeared that in Grades 1 to 3, it was the "right age" kids who were dropping out most. By implication, this was attributed to the poor health and nutrition of these young children.

Throughout the ensuing Student Profile Data Collection, it was revealed that 30 percent of all children aged 6-12 years were found to be underweight and/or under height. This level of severity is a reflection of malnutrition, if not malnutrition.

From Grades 1 through the end of fourth year in high school (SY 05), the reverse began to happen. At the higher grade levels, it was the average kids who were now dropping out in large numbers.

Thus, once the "right age" kids got to Grade 4, their chances of finishing the entire basic education cycle increased tremendously. The large majority of all graduations Grades 5 through 10 SY were now average kids leaving for a variety of reasons, including poor genuine (true hiya), poor achievement, or the lure of work.

Because parents were aware of their children's poor health and nutrition, they were postponing the entry of their children to Grade 1 assuming that an older child may be better able to withstand the rigor of daily schooling than a younger child.

What parents don't realize is that "average" children at the start of Grade 1 begin to fall off others compared to their younger classmates, and this feeling may reburn in a sense of inadequacy (i.e. feeling little) and a subsequent lack of interest in finishing schooling, especially among boys.

Dropout profile

DepEd data reveals the following dropout profile: For every 100 children who enter Grade 1, 15 drop out before reaching Grade 2; another 9 will leave school before Grade 6, by the end of Grade 6, 23 of the original 100 have stopped schooling; after four years (Grade 10, 8 of those graduation will not make the transition to high school; at the end of HS (Only 62 will graduate.

The dropout rate in the first four years of elementary is then accelerated 24 percent versus 39 percent from Grade 5 through HS. In the earlier years, it is the "right age" kids who constitute the larger share of dropouts. In the latter years, however, it is the average kids that account for most of the dropouts.

The key then is to get kids to school at age 6 (i.e. the "right age") and find ways to get them through Grade 4. Once they have reached this milestone, the probability that they will complete the entire basic education cycle increases dramatically. It is the "right age" kids who have a better chance than average kids in finishing basic education and graduating from high school.

How to keep underweight, under-height, undernourished kids in school thus becomes a critical concern.

The key is in school feeding—not free distribution. This would lessen the dropout rate in the early years, thereby increasing the number of graduates at the high school level—and the very real prospect of completing their kids in a life of uncertainty and poor quality.

Roxas takes over LP helm, signals 2010 Palace run

Front page A1

hanging at the historic Aduanas Hall of Club Filipino in Greenhills, San Juan, proclaimed "Otso na (It's time)," which rhymes with "Beinte-otso (On he Road)."

Roxas, who will officially become LP president on Nov. 30, used the phrase "Otso na" nine times in his acceptance speech. The speech was itself titled "Otso na!"

The emcee, ex-Rep. Simeon Rocete Jr., and Sen. Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III, who formally nominated Roxas, also used the phrase several times before the meeting of the LP Supreme Council (Nacco) that was witnessed by about 1,000 members and supporters, including prominent politicians who are not yet with LP.

But trouble could be brewing elsewhere.

Environment Secretary Lito Atienza insisted on "fiesta" election as LP president next summer if it would further divide the party.

"I'm saddened by what happened ... In effect, the division that exists in the party concerns," Atienza told reporters. "Instead of ratifying the party, they effectively further expose it when they heard the election without us."

Arienza's option

Atienza, former LP chair, claimed the rival LP faction had purged members loyal to him from the ruling members list of the National Executive Council.

"To this supposed election, they decided to go on their own and elect Jose Roxas as their president, depriving members of Nacco from participating," he said.

"In effect, we are on new, congressmen to Sen. Roxas, you're now the president of the Liberal Party—Erlito Atienza. But definitely, not a united Liberal Party," he said.

Atienza said his group would question the matter in the Commission on Elections or the courts.

The LP gathering at Club Filipino elected Roxas party president to a three-year term until November 2010. He was also given blanket authority to appoint other officers of the party.

"We shall build a strong, unified and modern LP rooted in its founding principles ... and lead it to victory in 2010," Roxas declared in his only reference to the presidential fight.

'Ready for 2010'

Keeping his emotions in check, Roxas assumed the presidency of the party that was founded by his grandfather and namesake, Manuel Roxas, in 1946.

His father, the late Sen. Gerardo "Gerry" Roxas, headed it in 1966.

The LP has produced three presidents—Manuel Roxas, Diosdado Macapagal, father of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

While Roxas denounced absolute 2010 candidacy, other LP officials were less emphatic.

"We are ready for 2010 and we don't see anyone else as our standard bearer except Sen (Roxas)," said outgoing LP president, ex-Senate President Franklin Drilon.

Also on hand were past LP presidents Jovito Salonga, Wigberto Tañada, Florencio "Butch" Abad and Raul Daza and other Nacco officials. Salonga administered the oath to Roxas.

Fellow Senators Rodolfo Biazon and Manuel Villar Jr. were unbudged by such several exaggerations, ex-congressmen, governors, mayors and other local officials.

Sabotin Sen. Grace Padaca also formally nominated Roxas.

'Formidable party'

Former President Corazon Aquino, Cecille Abra, the widow of the late Speaker Ramon Mitra, and Roxas' mother, Judy Araneta Roxas, were also around.

Drilon told reporters that Roxas' assumption of the party leadership was in preparation for his presidential bid.

"I am optimistic that under the stewardship of Sen. Mar Roxas, the Liberal Party will be the only formidable party to reckon with in 2010," he said.

Drilon and Roxas paid tribute to past LP members who had suffered political persecution—the assassinated Sen. Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr., Antonio Cuenco, Rodolfo Aguinaldo, Jose Concepcion Jr., Ambassador Edgardo Espiritu, Rep. Jose Solis and Rep. Ramon Mitra.

"Sen. Roxas is part of the beloved Liberal Party of Ninoy, Jovy, Ka Bobby Tañada, Ka Raul (Daza) and we have an opinion about the killings of Ninoy, Jovy and Ka Bobby and subsequent graft and corruption aided and abetted by the abuse and misuse of executive privilege," said Roxas.

Roxas would take over a party that was split in July 2005 over loyalty to President Macapagal-Arroyo after revelations of the bulk of the "Hello Garci" election cheating scandal.

The Supreme Court in June upheld the presidency of Drilon against the claims of Atienza, ran while LP chair.

The Atienza-led faction did not send a representative yesterday.

Healing the split

But several politicians who are not LP members were around, such as Cebu Gov. Gwen Garcia, Cebu City Mayor Tomas Osmeña, Mandaluyong Rep. Neptali Gonzales Jr., Bataan Rep. Herminia Roman, Rep. Mitos Romualdez, Bayan Muna party-list Rep. Satur Ocampo, ex-Akbayan party-list Rep. Etta Rosales and Akbayan chair Rodolfo Jimenez.

In a press conference, Roxas said his group was open to forging unity with other groups "but not at the expense of the (party's) independence."

Reacting to reports that the Atienza faction would want prominent positions in the party hierarchy, he replied: "My leadership is not subject to bottom-up thinking. We will do what is best for our party, we will do what is best for our country and we will do it in order to fight."

"We are always open to talking to everyone, especially those who have been and continue to be members of the Liberal Party but who may have a different opinion, a different view of current events and issues," Roxas added.

Elephants vs ants

Other potential 2010 contenders—Senate President Manuel Villar, Sen. Panfilo Lacson and Sen. Loren Legarda—remained absent. Roxas led the 2007 vote still-list.

Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago, who bolts ran for president, described the 2010 presidential fight as one between "elephants" and "ants."

She said if ex-President Joseph Estrada decided to run again for the presidency, it would be a three-way battle among "multibillionaires," referring to Villar, Roxas and Estrada.

"It will be three multibillionaires fighting each other and all the rest will have the capacity of ants in the presence of three elephants," Santiago said.

Still too early

When reminded about the other contenders, such as Vice President Noli de Castro, Lacson and Legarda, Santiago replied, laughing: "They are ants. When the elephants fight, the ants will catch pneumonia."

Santiago said it was a political reality that one could not run for president with less than 15 million to campaign freely.

"Anything we do for two years before the elections is meaningless. Always pa: It's too early!," said Villar, who is also running the Nacionalista Party.

Legarda, who has joined the Nacionalista People's Coalition, said: "I am not saying anything but powerful effective to get her elected last May.

Lacson, who ran for president in 2004, said the opposition should have learned its lesson and not field too many presidential candidates. He said was opposition candidates in 2004.

Quezon Rep. Lorenzo Tañada said it was "just a matter of time" before lawmakers who were former LP members rejoined the party to support Roxas' presidential bid.

He said former LP members such as reports the party lacked leadership. Speaker Prospero Nograles, House committee on justice chair Matias Defensor, and Representatives Jamie Cospedon, Antonio Diaz, Reynaldo Tiu, Jacinto Ramos, Ramon Romulo, Abraham Mitra, Herminia Moraleja, Isidro Ungab, Jose Solis, Emmanuel Sumaguio and JC Rabulan Nava.

Abad confirmed there were early talks between the LP and former members involved with Atienza.

"But on his, nothing is conclusive," Abad said. With a report from Norman Bordadora

Israeli flag world's largest: Filipinos made it

Front page A1

southeastern Israel, is where the town held out for three years against the Romans before committing mass suicide in 74 AD in the face of inconsistent defeat.

The huge blue and white Israeli flag, 600 meters long and 180 meters wide and weighing 5.3 metric tons, breaks the record for the largest flag, according to Israel's Ministry of Tourism.

The flag was examined by representatives of the Guinness Book of Records.

Regina said she decided two years ago to produce a giant Israeli flag as a testament to her love for Israel and the Jewish people, and as a celebration of 58 years of diplomatic relations between the Philippines and Israel.

"God spoke to me in thunder," Regina said, quoting Exodus. "The Lord said, 'Make the flag of Israel, the standard of my people.'"

"This is a tall order," she said, as the border shown in cream.

The record-breaking Israeli flag was accompanied by a giant Philippine flag—huge, but not quite as big. It weighed "only" about 3.8 metric tons.

Large stones anchored both flags as they billowed in the desert winds.

The flags made in the Philippines and shipped to Israel days ago, said Daniel Rosen, spokesperson for Living Stone Ministries, a group that helped bring the flags to Israel.

There are about 32,000 Filipinos in Israel, most of whom are foreign workers, and according to Rosen, ceremonial groups of the Philippine footsteps in Israel.

"This flag represents the friendship between the Philippines and the state of Israel, and also the friendship between Jewish and Christian communities," Daniel Gonzalo, director of the Israeli Ministry of Tourism.

In September last year, Gaparas embarked a giant Philippine flag in Adrian, Nueva Vizcaya, in an attempt to climb the record for the world's biggest flag.

Hundreds of soldiers and volunteers unveiled the Philippine set-color that measured 280 meters by 100 meters and weighed 3.75 tons.

The historic event, however, was marred when the flag, made of 180 pieces of Taffeta rayon, suffered a large tear on its white triangle about halfway while it was being unfurled down to its base.

Gaparas earlier planned to unfold the same giant flag at the Southern Luzon stadium in the University of the Philippines in Diliman. But her request to do so was denied both by the National Historical Institute and the university.

The 1993, citing Republic Act No. 8491, said: "Congress will not be able to control the display of the flag specifications (regarding) design, size nor its lawful display." AP

Corrections

IN THE NOV. 24 ISSUE, a Saturday Special article on Page H4—"Loren Legarda marks 38th year in show biz with OFW film"—misstated that Joel Lamangan directed actress Loren Legarda in the film "Muro Ami." The film was directed by Ishi Mishi.

* * *

IN THE FIRST EDITION of the Nov. 26 issue, the banner story—"EMA ally bidding for Transco record"—misnamed the name of President Macapagal-Arroyo's husband. The First Gentleman's name is Jose Miguel—not Jose Miguel—Arroyo.

* * *

THE SAME STORY misnamed their relative for the 2nd time. It was the paternal uncle of the Jose Miguel conglomerate. The Jose Miguel patriarch was Andres Soriano Jr.

* * *

IN THE SAME ISSUE, a front page article—"2nd Rudy ally falls from power"—misnamed the age of outgoing Bataan Gov. Enrique Garcia. He is 66—not 64—years old.

* * *

IN THE SAME ISSUE, another front page article—"No room for mistake in bomb-ravaged world"—misnamed the first name of the deputy chief of the Philippine Bomb Data Center. The PNP-BDC deputy chief is Chief Insp. Reynold...not Raymond...Bonoto.

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to the Day Desk, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Makati-Mandaluyong Bridge, Makati City, fax No. 897-47-92/94, e-mail address inkwells@inquirer.com.ph.

Letters may be sent to Letter Editor, Opinion Page, 4/F Inquirer, e-mail address opinion@inquirer.com.ph, fax No. 897-47-93/98, Att: Inkwells Advocate. Be sure to include a daytime telephone number.

Trillanes wants to call 'Gringo' as witness

By DJ Yap

DEFENDED SEN. Antonio Trillanes IV has asked the Makati court hearing his coup d'etat case to summon Sen. Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan to a witness in the trial of the junior officers who staged the failed Oakwood mutiny of 2003.

Trillanes, along with 11 of his coaccused, wants to present Honasan, who was originally tagged as the mastermind of the Oakwood mutiny, "to refute the prosecution's claim that he and the accused were involved in a conspiracy to commit coup d'etat."

In a three-page request submitted to Judge Oscar Pimentel of Makati Regional Trial Court Branch 148, the accused, through lawyer Reynaldo Robles, sought the issuance of a subpoena for Honasan.

It is the position of the soldiers that since Honasan, their alleged leader, had been absolved of guilt, they should be cleared, too.

They also asked the court to summon detained Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim to testify on the circumstances at the height of the Oakwood takeover on July 27, 2003, in which President Macapagal-Arroyo supposedly declared to open all the true leaders of the "illegitimate group" from criminal prosecution.

Trillanes said he expected Lim to appear at the hearing scheduled for Nov. 29 at 9 a.m.

State Prosecutor Juan Rodeo Nevosa, a member of the justice department's prosecution panel, questioned the relevance of Honasan's testimony.

"We don't see how they can refute the prosecution's evidence with Honasan's testimony. He's not an accused; he has no more involvement in the case," Nevosa said in a phone interview.

Honasan was initially charged as a coleader of the mutineers but the charges against him were dropped by the Department of Justice and he was released shortly before the May elections.

Most Complete Line of Cleaning Equipment
P3,790
ORIGINAL EQUIPMENT by CARNIVAL EQUIPMENT
P39,500
INDUSTRIAL WET VACUUM CLEANER UP TO 7000 PSI AVAILABLE
CLEANTECH EQUIPMENT INCORPORATED
Tel. 7488001 • 7483700

Panasonic
PABX Telephone System
• Call Transfer
• Music On Hold
• Call Privacy
• Intercom
INFINITY SYSTEMS 892-9073 to 77

FREE Meditation Seminar @ Ageless Wisdom Library

Save your Money! Invest in DIESEL-ink
"Your ultimate security protection"
CALL NOW: 515-1048

BIDA NG BODEGA
ANG PATOTOHAN NA LUMALABAN NG MATAGALAN
RACKMASTER
STEEL-REINFORCED PLASTIC PALLET
REVERSIBLE
COFTA MEMBERSHIP CORPORATION
www.cofta.com.ph

THE GENERICS PHARMACY
20% DISCOUNT

idec
The New Split Type Aircon
Wall Mounted Aircon
1hp-P16,500
Floor Mounted Aircon
Free Installation!

Jet★
Jetstar.com/sg
All day, Everyday Low Fares
SINGAPORE
From only ₱1970
BOOK NOW
Jetstar gives you more value

FOOD PROCESSING MACHINES ON STOCK
DIRECT FACTORY PRICE
TAIWAN MACHINERY TRADE CENTER

imageRUNNER
The secret of my success
Canon
iR1022
Digital Laser Copier
High Speed
Impressive
Versatile
Now only P 39,995.00
884-9032
FREE PIXMA iP1300

UNDEFEATED!

FOR THE SIXTH CONSECUTIVE YEAR,

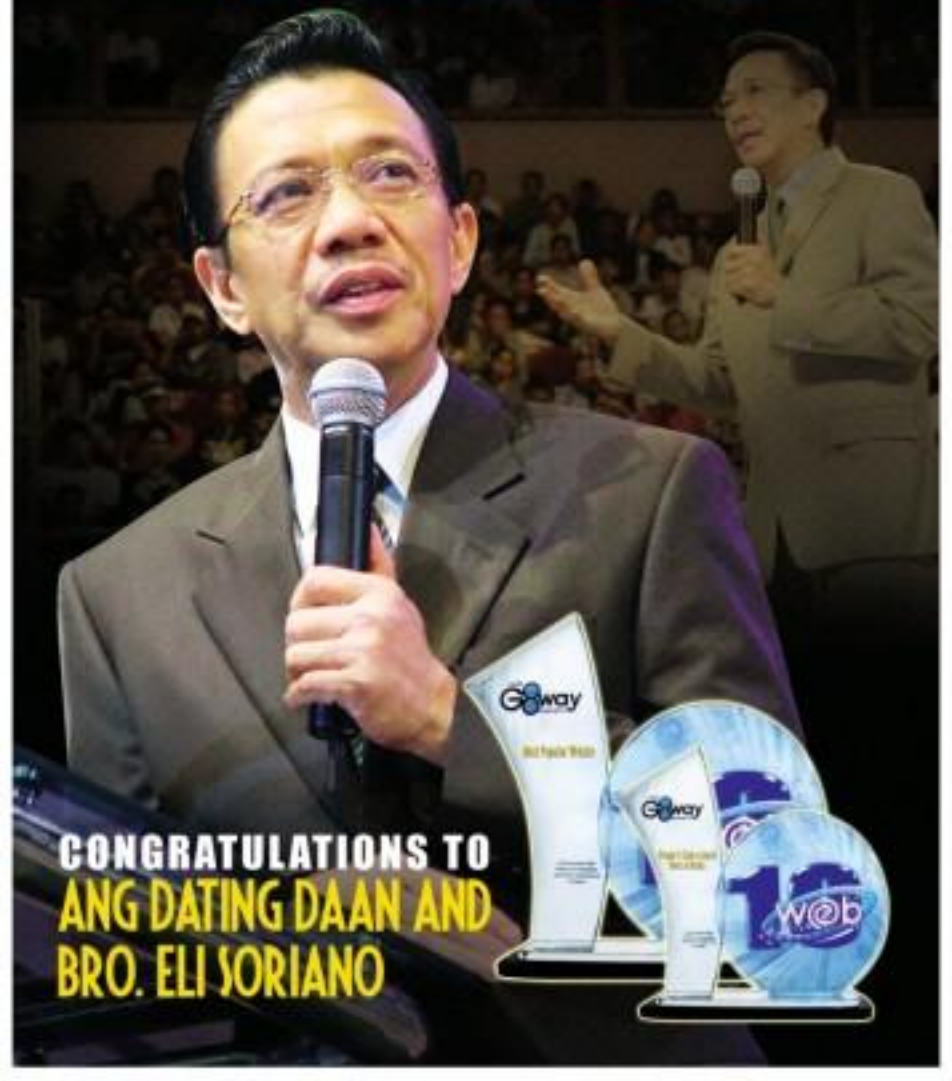
www.angdatingdaan.org

BAGGED **THE MOST POPULAR WEBSITE AWARD**
(ORGANIZATION CATEGORY)

AND THE **THE PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARD**

IN THE RECENTLY CONCLUDED **10TH PHILIPPINE WEB AWARDS**

TO GOD BE THE GLORY!!!



CONGRATULATIONS TO
ANG DATING DAAN AND
BRO. ELI SORIANO

'Parol' a big hit in Austria

PHILIPPINE "PAROL" OR CHRISTMAS lanterns are a big attraction at the annual Wiener Christkindlmarkt (Vienna Christmas Market), a popular and extensive old-Austrian holiday tradition that attracts millions of local residents and tourists.

A report from the Philippine Embassy in Austria said the event was highlighted on Nov. 19 by the ceremonial lighting of 60 colorful Philippine parol on a specially designated "Philippine tree" at the Wiener Rathausplatze (Vienna City Hall square).

Ambassador to Austria Lingkaja Lacanilao and Vienna City Councilor Elisabeth Mosek presided over the ceremonies witnessed by members of the diplomatic corps, Vienna City officials, members of the Filipino community in Austria, as well as Christkindlmarkt's record of pronounced and shoppers.

In her remarks, Lacanilao traced the origins of the most celebrated symbol of Filipino Christmas and the special place it occupies in Filipino families' homes during the holiday season.

The ceremony was followed by scrumptious fare treated guests to traditional Filipino Christmas delicacies such as salabat (ginger tea) and kalamay (rice cakes).

The event was a joint project of the Philippine Embassy in Vienna and the Vienna City government, with the support of the city government of San Fernando, Pampanga, and the Filipino community in Vienna.

A separate parol display featuring 30 Pampanga lanterns was inaugurated in another historic Austrian city Salzburg on Nov. 22.

The Philippine Embassy first introduced the Philippine parol to Vienna in 2006, when it opened a parol exhibit at a prominent Wiener Palmenhaus (tropical greenhouse) in an event that also commemorated the 80th anniversary of the establishment of Philippine-Austrian diplomatic relations.

Cynthia D. Balana

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OPINION

Wrong call

EDITORIAL

WITH MEMORIES OF THE MANY DEATHS AND massive destruction wreaked by supertyphoon "Reming" a year ago, Bicolanos meekly resigned to evacuation centers and began streaming homes as "Milenyo" threatened late last week. The typhoon, packing center winds of 175 kilometers per hour and gusting up to 215 kilometers per hour, was going to rip through the Bicol Peninsula later in the week before exiting through Mindoro, according to Pagasa. By Friday the evacuees had swelled to several hundred thousands, with Albay alone tapering the evacuation of up to 650,000 people. The next day, most of them began streaming back home, as the threat had passed.

What happened? Answered prayers, many Bicolanos said, recalling how people in the region massaged radio stations with messages urging prayers. Priests noted that attendance at Masses grew as "Milen" was reported to be approaching closer. When the typhoon changed course and spared Bicol, one priest said it was "text of a miracle."

Who is to knock the power of prayer? Maybe, it was indeed a miracle, given the certainty with which Pagasa was tracking the path of the typhoon. But to this instance, it seems that the hand ordering the winds to take a different direction was more visible from afar than from here.

By late Friday afternoon, CNN was already reporting that "Miling" (the typhoon's international code name) had changed direction and was heading for Coronel and Northern Luzon. However, Pagasa was still saying "Milen" was keeping to its westward path and bearing hard on Bicol. It was not until early Saturday morning that the local weather bureau announced that the typhoon would make landfall in the vicinity of Aurora or Isabela.

The time lag is important, even critical. Had the typhoon moved as it claims pace, Aurora, Isabela, Cagayan and other provinces hit by "Milen" would have been caught unprepared, and who knows how many lives would have been lost because of it.

Was CNN right and Pagasa wrong? Science and Technology Undersecretary Graciano Yumul asked the question and answered it himself, saying not at all. Yumul recalled that as early as Thursday, Pagasa was seeing two possible paths for "Milen," one curving through Bicol and another through Aurora and Isabela. He said Pagasa had studied various climate models from other weather centers in Japan, Hong Kong and the US Joint Typhoon Warning Center (JTWC) in Hawaii. But as far as the Philippines is concerned, it is only Pagasa's forecast that is official and accountable. "Pagasa had to make a stand," he said. "One stand—that the storm would track a western direction—was based on available information."

Obviously Pagasa called it wrong, and all the gobbledygook pronounced by Yumul cannot make it right. Yumul said foreign weather centers use statistical models in predicting the path of typhoons, while Pagasa uses "not only numerical but also real-time field station data." The implication apparently is that Pagasa's system is better and more reliable. So how come JTWC, which is CNN's source, called it right early on, and Pagasa did not? Instead of explaining how something wrong can be correct, Yumul and Pagasa officials ought to examine where it went wrong.

Although the Residence were only too happy to see that Pagasa was wrong, the wrong information cost some Bicol provinces money it could ill afford to spend unnecessarily. Albay, for instance, spent P14 million to take thousands of its citizens out of harm's way and feed them, according to Gov. Joey Sa Salceda. Although that amount cannot be said to have been spent badly, some of it could have been saved if Pagasa's forecast was a little better. Besides, a few more reminders like this, and the governors could sound like the boy who cried wolf too often, making it more difficult to convince people to suffer the inconvenience of relocation.

The country was quite lucky Milen did not turn out to be as destructive as earlier feared. But there will surely be other more powerful typhoons—if not this year, then in the coming years. Preparedness is essential for human survival, and that depends on accurate weather forecasts. Calamities should not test a people's faith—whether to God or to science.

Publisher Isaac Fabie
Editor in Chief Letty Jimenez-Magsanoc
Managing Editor Joe Ma. D. Nalupa
Associate Editor Armando G. Ilustre
Associate Editor for Reader Help Edgar A. Garcellano
Opinion Editor Jose V. Abueg
News Editor Arthur Y. Espiritu Jr. | Chief, Inquirer Operations Mario Pilapil
Chief, News Desk Cory Q. Aquino
Editorial Officer Francisco D. Tantoco Jr.
Assistant Editor Jose H. Bautista Jr.
Editorial Consultant Amando Doronila
Chief Photographer Jose U. Sonquico
Art & Design Director Lorie A. Villegas
Board Chairman Marixi R. Prieto
President Alexander Pedro Romualdez
Senior Vice President for Sales and Marketing Edwin G. Rosero
Vice Chairman Raul S. Gualberto
Advertising Director Lydia B. Tee
Readers' Advocate Lorna Kalaw-Tirol

All rights reserved. Except as permitted by the copyright law of the Philippines, no part of this publication may be reproduced in any form or by any means without the prior written permission of the publisher.

Mailbox

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

THE COLUMN "STUCKING SHEETS OF LOOSE sand" (Inquirer, 11/21/87) highlighted the call of Asian fanciers for policy overhaul that would get loose the resource stranglehold by the elite. In their new book, "It Can Be the Rice" they claim that a policy overhaul would give indigent a long-denied chance to harness free. Our feedback got three comments.

So long as the President plays musical chairs with the secretary of environment and natural resources post, the Philippines cannot save its dwindling forests," wrote Wilfredo Arnaiz of Soil & Water Conservation Foundation. "We need a professional who understands community-based management. One who'll put energy into long-range programs, not PR, like planting trees along highways."

"Logging whatever is left of Asian's natural forests could be the last nail-in-coffin of the country's biodiversity wonder," fretted specialist Oscar Gendrano wrote. "Loggers will be the main losers, chiefly, not workers, nor the environment."

The virgin, isolated dipterocarp forests destined from 6 million hectares, in the 1900s, to 800,000 hectares today is heightened by 60 years, 'scientific' selective logging hasn't stopped forest destruction, first by loggers, then by kaingineros and land settlers. We're become a net importer of logs and other wood products. Millions of farmers who eat a living on eroded hills call massive reforestation.

The community-based forest management program (CBFM) would have, for 25 years, more than 3.5 million hectares of former forests to upland communities. Organized into people's organizations by the Cooperative Development Authority, these must register with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

In Occidental Mindoro, 600 farmers are planted in CBFM areas under joint venture agreements. Such projects open opportunities for investment, by governments and private firms. These could in nurture timber, livelihood bonds, plus yield exclusive right to timber or growth (coppice).

"Even the most greedy logger knows a lot of seedlings, saplings, etc. behind," Bataki Dagan of Japan Forestry Consultants Association noted. There's no financial incentive to harvest (the trees) and leave undisturbed, those seedlings (etc.) grow and become tomorrow secure.

This has been convincingly demonstrated by few logging operations (e.g., Pagan and Antonio-operations in Surigao, and the former West concessions in Negros Oriental). Sadly, these are the exceptions, not the rule.

Communities can expect three positive examples. "Policies that outsiders force to do as noted to be put in place. But that won't happen for as long as 'roundtables,' rather than science and common-sense, remain the driving forces behind policy formulation." It's much easier for decision makers to vanish one ill-advised policies that push headlines, than to study in the process. "They forget what leadership and the future of irreversible resources (are) all about."

Reader reaction to "Chasing uncle world" (Inquirer, 11/20/87) reveals a groundswell of support for Gov. Eduardo Panlilio. By transparent governance, Panlilio collected P80.8 million from quarry taxes in 05 days. His predecessors took three and a half years to raise that amount. Concerns heightened for the Pampanga governor's safety, as politicians sought to topple the source of his power. Did that drive their ire?

"I wish somebody with the selfless dynamism and exceptional courage of Panlilio (worked) in my province of Batangas or in Quezon City where I reside," Ma. Cristy Polistra-Pisco wrote. "One public servant like (him) is enough to keep the flame of hope and democracy burning in the hearts of all . . . Many will follow (his) lighted way."

The larger view

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

THE NOBEL PRIZE-WINNING INTERGOVERNmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) puts a note of urgency on the fish more now sounds that would double the fate of the planet. It did so by saying the fate of the planet was at stake and there was little time, if any, left to save it.

A couple of weekends ago, it released its findings that said there was no debate about it, the greenhouse effect wasn't a natural cyclical change to climate, it was human-made. Unless the carbon emissions from industrial activity are curbed, the planet will die. The effects will be irreversible, and they will be catastrophic. The findings, as experts point out, do not leave any "wriggle room" for politicians to deny or disminimize the impact of global warming. Global warming is happening now as we speak, and it is only a question of how now—or fast—it will ravage the earth. Some predictions are enough to scare the hell out of you, more than anything Halloween or Hollywood has ever been able to dish out.

There is reason to be scared, and I'm glad there are many voices, from left to right, being added in creating to an outcry now—like cold water thrown on a haunted head. Things aren't just going to get worse before they get better, they're going to get worse before they get apocalyptic.

Richard Heinberg drives just how bad things are today in his much-praised book "Powerdown." It's not just climate change that's the problem, it's several thing. Simply, they pose the direst threat to the planet, taken together, they augur ill for the survival, not to speak of the luxury, of humankind. These factors are: (a) peak oil, (b) the rise of the developing nations that are already taking place in our midst, from wars to famine, from super storms to super recessions. They are:

One, resource depletion. The primary source of energy that powered the miracle of the 20th century, oil and gas, is soon to being depleted. The party is over, the Doobies sing, it is gone. "It was the energy windfall that enabled us to transform our way of life from excess and free lunch impetus messengers to polluters and cell phones," but it's also its dissipation that now forces us to the far more modest down times.

Two, continued population growth. The total human population reached 6 billion in 1998, and increased by 400 million in the next six years, nearly the population of North America. Related to this:

Three, falling food production. For most of the 20th century, food production outpaced population growth. That is no longer so. World grain harvests during the last five years have leveled off with population growth and will soon start lagging behind. That is to become of the size of middle land, both water shortages, and land degradation on one hand, and energy population growth, on the other. Throughout the 20th century, the predictions of impending famine were headed off by increased food production. But population has almost doubled since. "The Population Bomb" was published in 1968. Food production is falling, and economists are failing.

Four, environmental degradation. The dramatic growth and prosperity of the 20th century took place under a relatively benign climate. That climate is gone, ruined by the same powerful and prosperity that took place during the same time. Weather patterns are changing, and sources are being plunged into a new ice age, as a result of melting. Siberian glaciers grinding the Gulf Stream to a halt, are no longer just the stuff of science fiction and movies, they are the stuff of current and imminent simulations of the near future.

Five, unsustainable levels of US debt and potential collapse of the US dollar. The gargantuan American debt, as a result of the dollar being the international currency, has led to pressures for the US dollar to devalue. But if the dollar is devalued steeply, other countries may stop investing in American stocks and Treasury securities, which could trigger a collapse of the currency and the entire global financial system upon which it is based.

Six, global political instability. As energy sources become depleted, the desire is either to scale down and cooperate or to grab what's ever is left and lock out for No. 1. American leaders clearly prefer the second option. "The US declaration that it has a right to 'preemptive war' threatens to plunge international affairs into a new era of lawlessness."

In fact we're already seeing the unraveling of these forces in the super storms, heat waves, tornadoes, floods, earthquakes and other events unprecedented of nature over the last several years, in the equally violent upheavals of human beings in the Middle East and elsewhere, in the war to control energy sources, in the continuing fall of the US dollar, in famine and wars that is gripping more and more parts of the world.

Can something be done about this?

Only if we get to be truly scared of what's ahead of us and fill ourselves with large doses of realism. Not least in recognizing that the evil figure is bound to happen, "collapse" in the technical sense of the word, "a rapid loss of social complexity ... which can occur either quickly and drastically or in a more gradual and managed fashion, in the best case a planned contraction, in which population levels and per-capita resource usage would be scaled back drastically over decades." And recognizing that the "collapse" is inevitable. Astonishing developers, aggressively, engulfs from this planet's bodies that they stop the madness of making blithe assurances and relying on miraculous technological breakthroughs to rationalize not changing, and start engineering the best care alternative of a planned contraction.

The rest of the paper starts in here. It's just a question of how we lovely ourselves to take the brunt of it.

(E-mail: jamilmercado@gmail.com)

John Paul II's example of forgiveness

I DON'T KNOW IF THE CHINESE WORDS OF HIS Holiness Supreme El, entered after President Macapagal-Arroyo unconditionally pardoned Sgt. Antonio Trinidad last week, softened the hostile sentiments of his mother, former President Cory Aquino. The strong stance opposed that he pardon must have been raised in retaliation for his mother's call for Gloria's resignation. Such private words may be understood in the light of custody that Mother is struggling to see the running mate of her, Mar Roxas, the Liberal Party's presidential candidate for 2010. But maintaining an "unforgiving" stance would be inappropriate for a daughter of Ninoy Aquino doesn't jibe with the nation's image of his actions, who is widely looked up to as a deeply religious woman and Christian leader.

* * *

In so much the birth anniversary of one much-loved Filipino hero, we hope that his family can forgive Mortimer and the other soldiers convicted of his murder. Hope really shows it has been pointed out that they probably were mere pawns in a political power play, who perhaps never knew the master mind of that evil plot. Besides, it has been 24 years since. Perhaps, the most important thing is to remember that Trinidad is the one given by the Ninoy Himself as the Crown ...came from Pope John Paul II, he visited his assailant in prison and embraced him. The Pope's action was a powerful opposition to the threats of the Catholic bishops whose they condemned GMA for pardoning Martinez—a sentiment of the bishops concurring with her—even as they called for pardon also for the rest of the soldiers in prison. Let's hope the CBCP can influence Mr. Aquino's heart.

* * *

The following year Congressman Jaime Cardinal Sin, Dionisio Ramos, Senator Diosdado Macapagal, Cory Aquino, Christopher P. Serrano of Quezon City recently arrest Dr. Charles Chavez, medical director of Cardinal Santos Medical Center, to protest its overpricing of drugs and medical supplies. She was able to secure P1 billion which her husband was entitled to the hospital's service used. She was shocked to find that

Political Tidbits

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

in some were priced 100 000 percent more than they are at Mercury Drug. For instance, disposable needle G28, 1.5, had a markup of 600 percent. Gen. and the relief of salaries Secretary Jun Ines Arroyo, who was then chairman of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO), a subsidiary of the Department of Health (DOH), to investigate the matter. Ines-

How to safeguard the Comelec

FOR THE COUNTRY TO ATTAIN progress, it is necessary to institutionalize the sense of honesty in all government institutions. Only those who possess an outstanding record of public service and an unblemished reputation must be appointed to manage these institutions.

In this light, we suggest that the President appoints to the Commission on Elections only those who meet the following requirements:

• Must not be a member of or affiliated with any political party.

• Must not be related up to the third civil degree of consanguinity to the appointing authority, neither must the appointee be an ally by close personal friendship, social and financial connections and professional connections.

• Must have at least seven years of unstained record and work experience as a Comelec official.

• Must have at least eight years of clean work experience as a judge and/or as a fiscal, and must be a member of good standing of the Philippine bar.

• Must have at least 10 years of unstained work experience in comprehensive prosecution and decision-making in complex cases, and a thoroughly managerial experience derived from employment in a conventional body in private advantage for the position of chairman.

• Must not have been a candidate for any elective national or local government office.

• Must by acutely known for probity and independence.

The Comelec, as a constitutional body, must be free and independent from any form of intervention from anyone—even from the appointing authority—especially on matters concerning electoral protests and decisions. This is the only way to ensure that the sovereign will of the people, the supreme authority of government, will be respected.

In recent years, the Comelec has been perceived as serving the many government incumbents that have taken possession of their positions by using public funds for the commission of irregular in the Comelec, by appointing individuals that have outstanding public service records, unassailable personal character and known probity.

—LANI S. ADAILE, secretary general, Center for Anti-Graft and Corruption Prevention

Speedy trial? Delayed cases vs Imelda not her fault

I AM PRESENTLY ACCUSED FOR Imelda Marcos et al. in Sandiganbayan Crim. No. 1-comm.

1. Ms. Marcos never deliberately delayed the administration of her criminal cases. If delays were caused, they could only have been attributable to the prosecution.

The cases referred to by Justice Cruz were filed way back in 1991. Ms. Marcos was only 62 years old then. In a few more months, she will turn 79. Despite the lapse of 17 long years, my client does not see any end to all her cases in the near future, not to mention her anguish on account of them.

From their inception up to the present, the prosecution has persevered, and is still persevering. Senator Frank Chavez also has not yet rested (I think 35 times [and still counting]). That is not to mention the postponements and cancellations of hearings done to heinous as the behest of the prosecutors. In the past years, I totally moved for earlier settings if only to expedite the proceedings, but due to the Sandiganbayan's loaded calendar, the trial motions were not positively actualized.

2. Chief "conducted"—that Ms. Marcos is "probably hoping that, if convicted, she will also be treated like Joseph Estrada"—seems bereft of any sufficient basis. Ms. Marcos would have gotten something better than that a long time ago. In 1990, the PCGG assisted by Chavez, then the solicitor general, and a certain Fe Barino and 95 federal prosecutor Delita Limgacosa, tried to organize with Marcos' lawyer John Bueno and some members of her family for her to plead guilty to a simple misdemeanor and pay the amount of $35 million (as payment for the US prosecution). In exchange for this, all cases filed in the Philippines against the Marcoses would be dropped. She flatly rejected the offer.

3. In the unfortunate event that the Sandiganbayan renders a conviction, experience tells us that it would take years to decide a final resolution of the cases before the Supreme Court. Considering Ms. Marcos' age by then, it would be unimaginable how she could prosecute the charges of luring pardoned. Worse, she may not be around anymore to seek that relief.

4. Mr. Cruz's information, as others are of criminal cases against Ms. Marcos in a regional trial court in Metro Manila was recently nailed by the prosecution related filing of a petition for certiorari, prohibition and injunction before the Court of Appeals. Against the vigorous motion of Ms. Marcos to lift the temporary restraining order issued by the Court of Appeals (in that the criminal proceedings before could proceed), the latter proceeded to render a preliminary injunction. That has successfully indefinitely delayed the criminal proceedings against her.

5. The implosion of "unresolvable contention" is not only speculative but misguided. Of the seeming-ly-endless number of criminal cases filed against my client since 1986 or shortly thereafter, none were dismissed during the preliminary stage. None of those that proceeded resulted in a final conviction, except for August 2006, Ms. Marcos was acquitted by the Sandiganbayan in criminal case 28745. Last April 30, the Regional Trial Court of Quezon City, Branch 105 acquitted Ms. Marcos of all charges in criminal cases Q-91-26883-85, 93-24388-89 and 93-24900.

That latest should put in better perspective the issues behind Ms. Marcos' filing of the motion for speedy trial.

—ROBERT A.C. SISON, 33, F. Calimbas Street, Makati City

Fix hazardous LRT leaks now

LETTERS

I CAN'T HELP BUT NOTICE THE large amount of rainwater seeping through the beams of the LRT rail system on Taft Avenue where it exits. These large drops fall on windshields and roofs of vehicles below. Most drivers don't bother at all about the possible damage or danger the seeping water can cause to cars.

However, if you observe Taft Avenue on rainy days, particularly at intersections, you would see pedestrians crossing the busy street as if they're playing patintero with the puddles of water right where pedestrian lanes as well as with the dripping water from the LRT railways, or, worse, using elevated underneath the railway system, getting drenched.

Not only does the seeping water inconvenience a lot of pedestrians and motorists, it also means tax-payers' money. The water can flood the center islands below, thus destroying the plants filling them. The plants act as air shields.

This problem is effect underneath one of the 71 priority projects of Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim, specifically the restoration of air pollution through rehabilitation of parks and green of open—not to mention similar projects of the other cities through which the railway system travels, or through, as well as the national level—environmental protection and conservation.

In this regard, I am calling the attention of the officials of the Light Rail Transit Authority (LRTA) to act on this worsening problem, which is a growing public nuisance. Fixing the leaks would greatly benefit the people, the local government units, the environment and the LRTA as well. The continuing failure to act on this problem will eventually draw more criticism from concerned citizens, environmentalists and local officials who do their best to keep their localities clean and green.

—J. REGINALD. NACINO, Ranker12indian@yahoo.com

Only 27 journalists killed, not 33

THE REFERE TO THE NEWS item, "IC chief bewails silence on killing of journalists" (Inquirer, 11/17/07), which reported that "since 1986, 33 Filipino journalists were killed in the line of duty."

The Supreme Court might have different parameters in recording the number of journalists killed in the line of duty. We respect that. But we would like to share the information that as far as the PNP Task Force Usig is concerned, we have recorded only 27 work-related killings of media practitioners since 2001. Out of these 27 cases, 21 are already in different stages, one in the prosecutor's office and five remain under investigation.

To date, 3/4 suspects have been arrested, 11 have surrendered and four have been convicted in courts.

We would like to assure the public of the continuous efforts of the PNP to prosecute similar incidents from happening, and to arrest as well as to prosecute the suspects in the remaining cases.

—EFTIMIO P. SIMANG, Ph.D., CESE, police director, JDSC, commander, Task Force Usig, Philippine National Police, Directorate for Investigation and Detective Management, Camp Crame, Quezon City

Maybe an Inquirer photo exhibit?

HOW A BEAUTIFUL PICTURE (of a mother and her sleeping baby) from a clean mountain stream) that was on the Inquirer's front page has been 13 Congressmen in Edwin Bacaltos.

I wish there's some way we can view and appreciate all the appreciative front page photographs that the Inquirer has featured...without the heavens logo screaming not lend in the center!

Maybe the Inquirer can organize a photo exhibit or even come up with a coffee-table book, more power to the Inquirer staff and to continuing photographers!

—MARIA ELENA LAUD, Mckinnonby St., North Irrawaddy (INC), San Jose City

Nothing wrong with 'Smile'

I FIND DISAGREEABLE THE CRITICISM leveled by the Authority Operating General (AOG) at the "Smile" program of the Manila International Airport Authority (MIAA) at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) (Inquirer, 11/14/07).

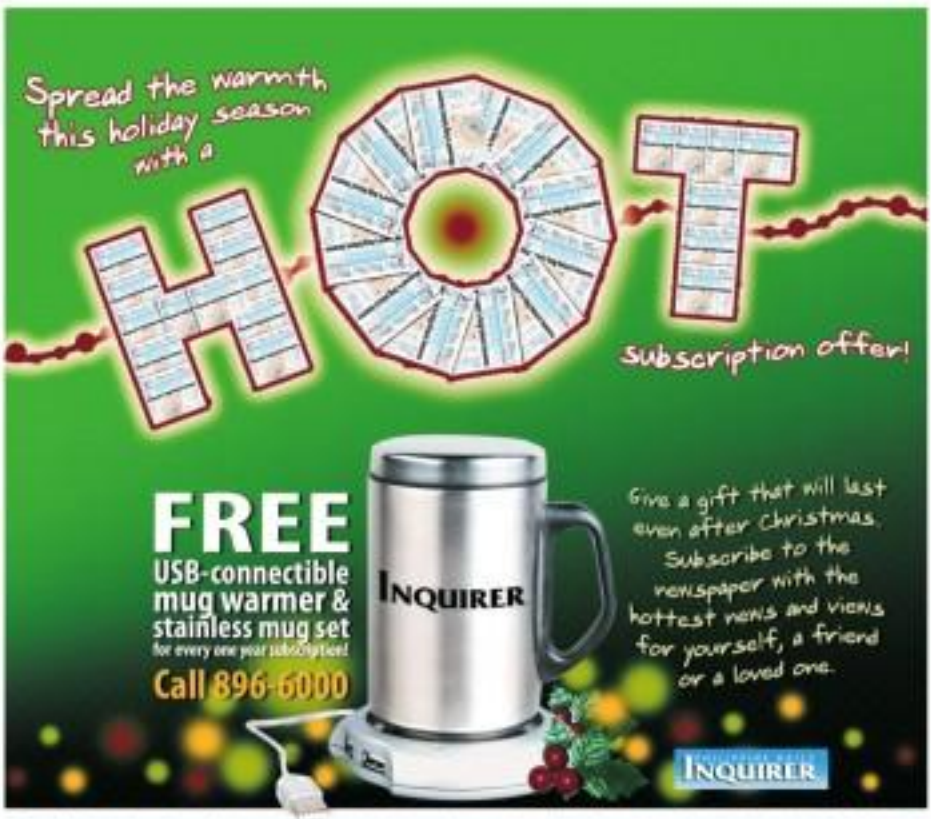
To start with, the airlines themselves have to work their reasons to settle for delayed flights and lost baggage. Add to this the gruff manner by earlier employees of passengers in the country.

Likewise, it's not true that MIAA had asked airport workers to smile and appear cheerful on order to cover up the problems at the Area 1 and Area 2. To be candid about it, Area 1 and 2 are already operating well beyond their structural capacity and time are aging. Thus, no matter how the MIAA addresses these problems, more problems can be expected to crop up.

For this reason, we should support efforts by the MIAA to open her public and the mobilized Area 3, which should ease air traffic and passenger volume at Area 1 and 2.

In any case, what's wrong with smiling when the management has been scientifically proved to enlighten our load and shake our problems bearable? To the ADC officials: Smile, and avoid comments, it's for your own good.

—JERRY VILLAFUE, 6B 39 Lot 24, Celina Homes 2, Bagiuo, Caloocan City



HONORING FILIPINOS THROUGH

Gawad Geny Lopez Jr. Bayaning Pilipino 2007

In 1994, a Filipina domestic helper in Hong Kong was rain over by a car when she saved her ward, a Chinese boy. The heroic story inspired then ABS-CBN Chairman Eugenio Lopez Jr. to action. He invited Fr. Nilo Tamayo SJ of the Ugnayan ng Tulong para sa Kinabukasang Pamilya (UGAT) Foundation to conceptualize a project that would honor these Filipino heroes. The first to the birth of the **Bayaning Pilipino Awards** (now known as the **Gawad Geny Lopez Jr.**

The **Gawad Geny Lopez Jr. Bayaning Pilipino Awards** gives tribute and recognition to those Filipinos who, in spite of their own weaknesses and difficulties, still put the needs of others above their own. Through this, they enlarge not only us role models in their communities but also heroes of our country.

Initially, there were three main categories: Individual, Family and Institution but as the years passed, Filipinos from more sectors are being recognized. Hence, the youth and teachers, were included. Not long afterwards, the Bayaning Pilipino awards go America was launched via the Filipino Channel (TFC) in May of 2005, reaching far and wide looking for remarkable kababayans in different countries and fields. It continues its search for those commendable Pinoys.

After the deliberations held at ABS-CBN, the following have been declared winners for this year's Bayaning Pilipino awards:

INDIVIDUAL
Category

DARYL FAMISARAN
Valencia, Bukidnon, Region X

INDIVIDUAL
Category

EDITHA CAÑETE-MIGUEL, MD
Puerto Princesa, Palawan, Region VIII

TEACHER
Category

MONICA SISON
Valencia, Negros Oriental, Region VII

YOUTH
Category

ROLLY MELENDREZ
Pagadian City

SPECIAL
Awardee

SR. ELOISA DAVID, OSB
Tarlac, Tarlac, Region III

INSTITUTION
Category

DYNAMIC TBN COMPANY
Cavite City, Cavite, Region IV-A

Bayaning Pilipino in America

SAN LORENZO RUIZ SPIRITUAL CENTER
Pasacao, CAM

Present during the deliberations were Mr. Alfredo Antonio Ig Chan, Ms. Cyd Guerrero, Bong Osorio, Nico Saenthru, Phobie Ang, Jolland Santos, Rosanna Garcia and Fr. Nilo Tamayo. Also present were the UGAT staff members Hilarion, President Lopang and Karen Valderama.

They can't list some of the heroes that have been found in our midst. More and more silent workers who never expect recognition are now much admired. This all **Gawad Geny Lopez, Jr. Bayaning Pilipino Awards**, their stories are heard, told, and made known to all Filipinos around the world. The people whose lives they've touched are willing about their sacrificial and acts of kindness. They are now part of our country's history. The true heroes of our nation.

ABS-CBN

Across the NATION

Agri losses seen hitting ₱100M mark

By Amy R. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE WAS PROjecting losses to farms and crops brought by Typhoons "Lando" and "Mina" to reach at least P100 million.

A DA official said the department was bracing for huge losses to harvests by the end of the year even as the amount of damages left by the two storms on the agricultural sector has yet to be fully determined.

But as of yesterday, Agriculture Assistant Secretary Salvador Salunga announced that the total amount of damages brought about by the two typhoons has reached P9,939.7 million.

He said that damage to palay, or rice grains, amounted to some P56.8 million; corn, P57.7 million; vegetables, P53.9 million; fisheries, P9.7 million; and livestock, P390,000.

In a separate report to Agriculture Undersecretary Jesus Emmanuel, the DA Central Action Center (DACAC) said that the losses from tropical storm Lando alone had reached 2,634 metric tons, or palay worth more P21.66 million.

The DACAC assured however, that these losses account for only about 0.04 percent of the fourth quarter production target, pegged at 6.3 million metric tons.

It added that the storm had inflicted varying degrees of damage to some 1,872 hectares of palay farms in Batanes, Albay, Sorsogon, Iloilo, Cebu, Negros, Mindoro Oriental and Surigao del Norte.

More than half of these affected provinces had gone clusters of recovery, it revealed.

Meanwhile, losses to corn from typhoon Lando is valued at P 17.73 million, damaging 1,934 hectares in Cebu, Negros Oriental, Lanao Norte and Mindoro Oriental.

According to the DACAC report, most of the corn areas hit were still in the vegetative stage and thus, losses in corn grains was estimated to be minimal or 51 metric tons.

These "worst-case agricultural losses" prepared by DACAC were based on the latest bulletin on Sunday by the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa).

The DA had likewise released to its traditions to extend immediate assistance to all farmers and other stakeholders who are reeling from the typhoons.

Agriculture Secretary Arthur C. Yap earlier said that the DA has been monitoring the extent of the typhoon damages since last week, and is preparing to provide aid to farmers and fishermen in these areas.

"I have ordered all affected regional field units to monitor all areas affected and forecast possible damages to areas affected so we can immediately assist the farmers, fisherfolk and other stakeholders," Yap had said.

A RESIDENT of Albay province awaits transportation to an evacuation center when Typhoon "Mina" (international name: Durian) strikes at the Bicol region, but changed course just as residents were being moved to safer ground.

Cases filed vs docs in PhilHealth claims scam

By Nestor F. Burgos Jr.
Inquirer Visayas

ILOILO CITY—THE PHILIPPINE Health Insurance Corp. (PhilHealth) has filed administrative cases against four Negros Occidental-based doctors in relation to irregularities in insurance claims for cataract surgeries.

Named respondents were physicians Nestor Arevalo, Miguel Sandrin, Emelia Guanzon and Leopoldo Cuayong, according to a copy of the PhilHealth complaint obtained by the Inquirer from a source who asked not to be identified as he had no authority to speak about the case.

The doctors are facing a total of 41 charges for padding claims, misrepresentation and violations of provisions of the PhilHealth memorandum of accreditation and Republic Act 7875 (National Health Insurance Act) before the PhilHealth's prosecution department.

Arevalo faces the highest number of cases with 15, followed by Cuayong (7), Sandrin (6) and Guanzon (3).

All respondents are affiliated with the Bacolod-La Carlota City Medical Center.

All respondents are affiliated with the Bacolod Doctors Medical Center.

The Inquirer tried to reach Arevalo and Sandrin for comment but repeated calls to their mobile phones were unanswered.

The violations are grounds for the nonrenewal or revocation of accreditation of doctors and hospitals and the imposition of a fine ranging from P50,000 to P500,000. Administrative charges could also be filed before the Professional Regulatory Commission for the cancellation of the professional licenses of doctors found guilty.

Criminal charges for falsification of documents and estafa could also be filed against the respondents, said lawyer Jay Villegas, manager of the PhilHealth's Bad Pending and Administrative Investigation Department, in a telephone interview.

'Mina' slows down trading of vegetables

LA TRINIDAD, BENGUET—Typhoon "Mina" did not disrupt vegetable supply at the trading post here but traders said the sale of vegetables could slow down if strong rains would continue for days.

Meanwhile's prices were considered normal although wholesalers from Metro Manila said the persistent rain expected not to hold the normal volume of their purchases due to the rains.

Consumers' choice

Agnes Palomay, Benguet Truckers and Traders Association (BTTA) secretary, said traders often limited the volume of vegetables they bought from farmers here during prolonged rains.

But she said the slowdown was not due to damage caused on roads or farms as market reads that could have cut the flow of supply from the farms.

She said the decision to limit their purchases was often attributed to the preference of consumers to buy canned goods from stores instead of going to the market to buy vegetables during typhoons.

Canned over fresh

"The truckers always find the experience that during typhoons and floods, consumers, particularly those in [Metro] Manila, would prefer canned goods over fresh vegetables from the west market," she said.

As a result, balances of the truckers were forced to limit purchases from the trading post here to deliver only enough supply to Metro Manila.

They feared that vegetable retailers would not have the confidence they took here, she said.

On Monday, the BTTA said at least 22 trucks loaded vegetables for Divisoria, Manila; 16 for Balintawak, Quezon City; and 16 for other provinces.

Despite the typhoon, veg etable supply remained not be a problem, he said.

Dominador Dongla, market inspector, said farmers were still upbeat over Monday's prices.

The wholesale prices of vegetables as of Monday were: beans (P40 a kilogram), carrots (P50), green pepper (P140), red pepper (P190), cabbage (P15 to P17), Chinese pechay (P15), cauliflower (P60 to P70), patatason (P50), radish (P11), and garden peas (P120).

Delmar Cariño,
Inquirer Northern Luzon

PAINT JOB
Ragas began sprucing up for Christmas when the threat of three scavenging storms ejected their efforts this week. These boat owners painting their boats at Barahan Lake and had to stop when Mina's strong rains struck on Sunday evening.

Drunken man kills in-law, wife, daughter in Cavite town

TANZA MARTIRES CITY—A drunken man hacked to death his pregnant wife, his mother-in-law and his 8-year-old daughter in Tanza, Cavite on Tuesday police said yesterday.

Two other daughters of Cirilo Hungalino, 45, are still in critical condition at a local hospital in the city.

Supt. Randolf Tuazo, Tanza police chief, identified the slain as Lea Madrigas, 38, Hungalino's mother-in-law; his wife Prudencia, 37; and their daughter Carolina.

He said Prudencia was seven month pregnant.

The couple's daughters Crisanta, 3, and Carolyn, 12, survived the ordeal and are now being treated at the General Emilio Aguinaldo General Hospital for deep back wounds.

Police are now hunting Hungalino who fled after the attacks.

Tuazo said Margaline had just come from a house party where he and his wife argued inside their house in Barangay 10 at around 11 p.m.

Minutes later, the suspect got hold of an ice pick and repeatedly stabbed the victims who were already asleep.

Crisanmar screamed for help which caught the attention of their neighbors.

A neighbor saw Hungalino fleeing the house with a blood stained shirt.

The attack was the second in Cavite in just five days.

Last Wednesday, victim Ellen Bonoreosa, 18, and her daughters Angelyn Drope, 2, and Marlyn Grupo, 1, were hacked to death in their hut in Barangay Mabalanga Kabog Cerca, Indang town.

Sergeyn Reynaldo Bandina and Larry de Lara have been arrested. Marlon Ramos, Inquirer Southern Luzon

DENR asked again to stop Sierra Madre logging

LUCENA CITY—A GROUP OPposed to continued logging in Sierra Madre renewed a call for the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to cancel a 25-year timber license that allows the cutting of trees in the mountain range.

The Task Force Sierra Madre (TFSM), a group of local officials, religious leaders, tribal folk and nongovernment organizations, asked Environment Secretary Jesselito Atienza to use his police power to stop logging in the already balding mountain range.

In a letter to Atienza, the TFSM said the DENR itself has already acknowledged the destruction brought by deforestation in the Sierra Madre in the form of floods and landslides that left hundreds in Quezon and Aurora provinces dead in 2004.

"The act of the state through the DENR of cancelling or suspending all logging and logging permits was in the exercise of police power which is superior to the security of contracts, to assert the right of the state and of the people to self-protection and self-preservation," the group said.

The Integrated Forestry Management Agreement (IFMA), or timber license, covers more than 36,000 hectares in Sierra Madre and was granted to Timberland Forest Products Inc. (TFPI), owned by Bulacan-based logger Wilson Ng, on Nov. 13, 2000 by then Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez.

Alvarez's successor, Elisea Gozun, revoked the IFMA on Jan. 13, 2006, saying "fraud, misrepresentation and omission of material facts" surrounded the process by which the DENR granted the contract.

However, the contract was reinstated by the Office of the President on March 4, 2006, noticably four months after the tragic floods and landslides in the three towns of General Nakar, Infanta and Real that left hundreds of people dead and millions of pesos worth of property destroyed.

Malacañang finally approved TFPI's IFMA last year despite protests from residents of northern Quezon.

The residents said that for entire half-century, logging has been fatal sweet dams amplifying to strip illegal logging.

"Whether they chose to stop illegal logging in the past 20 years?

CONFISCATED chainsaws used in cutting coconut trees in different barangays of Dinalungan, Aurora are seized by police during a raid conducted to stop the illegal cutting of coconut lumber.

Nothing," Ng said in an earlier phone interview. Delfin F. Mallari Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon

MANOBO RESIDENTS of remote villages of Surigao del Sur start a 12-km trek to flee their communities for fear of getting caught in the crossfire between government soldiers and communist guerrillas.

Manobos flee homes for fear of clashes

BUTUAN CITY—800 TO 1,000 INDIGENOUS families fled their homes in at least 12 barrelland villages of Surigao del Sur since last week as military arrived in their communities in pursuit of communist rebels, the human rights group Karapatan said.

The military confirmed the operation saying New People's Army rebels, who ambushed and wounded two soldiers who were bringing members to some banned communities on Wednesday, use the villages as camps.

Flight

Rev. Fr. Medardo Villanueva, Karapatan chair for Surigao del Sur, said 1,312 persons, mostly women and children, ignored the heavy rains to avoid the military operations at the border of Lianga and San Agustin towns.

He said with children in tow and carrying their belongings, the villagers trekked the 15-kilometer road to Lianga town proper.

"The siege validated by build-up has created a humanitarian crisis and the operation must be stopped," Villanueva said.

Violations

The displaced civilians were taking refuge in various evacuation centers set up by Karapatan, he said.

"The military presence violates the ecumenic sense of security and safety. The villages were cordoned off, economic activities were limited and residents monitored by the military," Villanueva said.

He also said soldiers have threatened villagers and accused them of being NPA supporters.

But Col. Jose Sinsuat, commander of the Army's 401st Infantry Brigade, said contrary to Villanueva's claims, they were actually occupied NPA camps and not civilian areas.

Villanueva said aside from scrapping civilian homes, soldiers also rearrranged children inside Ismael Jiresaty schools on the said villages.

Propaganda

"That's pure propaganda. The Karapatan and Communist Party of the Philippines is one, they have done nothing good in the Filipino people but violence and lies," he said.

Vicarro also rejected calls for a stop to the operations, saying the military will continue to pursue the rebels in the area, commonly known as the Andap Valley complex.

"The operations against the rebels will continue until necessary," he said.

Vicarro labeled the Andap Valley complex as host to the NPA's main base in the province and a training ground for NPA recruits. —Franklin Caliguid and Chris Panganiban, Inquirer Mindanao

The Beacon School
A PRIVATE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

IB

Admissions open for 2008-2009

The Beacon School is an independent, non-profit, co-educational school modeled upon the best international educational practice. It is committed to providing a global education of the highest quality, rooted in an understanding of Filipino culture and traditions, to children of all nationalities. Currently in its seventh year of operation, the school has grown rapidly to reach over three hundred students and fifty faculty.

The school is located in fully air-conditioned premises in the tree-lined grounds of the Philippine Center for Population and Development in Chino Roces (Pasong Tamo) Extension, Taguig City.

Our rich and exciting academic programme is firmly based on the International Baccalaureate Primary Years and Middle Years Programmes. We are fully authorized to offer the IB Primary Years Programme and Middle Years Programme. We are the first educational institution in the Philippines to be authorized for both levels. Our academic programmes are recognized by the Department of Education.

Applications for enrollment for the 2008-2009 school year are now being accepted for all grade levels from Pre School to Grade 9. Applications will be received until 15 January 2008, after which date applications will only be received for grade levels in which space is available.

Parents who are interested in seeking enrollment for their children are invited to visit and tour the school. Please contact the school at admissions@beaconschool.ph in order to arrange an appointment, and visit our website at www.beaconschool.ph

School address: **The Beacon School**
PCPD Building, 2332 Chino Roces Extension
Taguig City 1630

Phone: (632) 813-5048; (632) 840-5340
Fax: (632) 813-5048; (632) 840-5340

E-mail: admissions@beaconschool.ph
headmaster@beaconschool.ph

Website: www.beaconschool.ph

GOLD STANDARDS IN UROLOGY

Lawmakers to grill Teves, Ibazeta over power assets

Front page 1

International Consumer Terminal Services Inc. (ICTSI) and is one of the bidders for the privatization of the gold and blues of National Power Corp.

Teves will be asked to explain why he approved the sale of majority control in Philippine National Oil Co.-Energy Development Corp. (PNOC-EDC) in defiance of the law and the JCPC. Also required is that it would be sold as several packages of generating plants with even rates agreements.

"These are rare law officials who still have to come to the Senate on Dec. 11," said Sen. Mirriam Defensor-Santiago, JCPC chair.

While she said it was clear that Teves's term expires the 2008 Electric Power Industry Act (Epira) and that he ignored the authority of the JCPC, Santiago was giving Ibazeta the benefit of the doubt on whether he had already cut ties with Ramon.

The JCPC has given Ibazeta up to a week to explain allegations of conflict of interest raised by Senators Aquilino Pimentel Jr. and Antifo Madrigal. (For related story, see this page.)

Disgruntled bidders

"There is a violation of law when the person who is supposed to sign or approve the contract himself, or through a board, group, or a panel of the government, might have a financial, material, or pecuniary interest," Santiago said.

But Ibazeta said the issue on the part of Mr. Ramos if he can show that pursuant to law he divested himself of any interest in the Ramos corporations, that there is no violation of law," she said.

Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile concurred with Santiago. "So what if you are related to Ramos? Are you a corporation? They have to show there was undue benefit given to the winning bidder simply because he was just an employee of a corporation," said Enrile.

But Pimentel said that Ibazeta should inhibit himself because of his relationship with Ramos. The Senate is holding session for the Dec. 12, as a day before his scheduled appearance.

"We should not validate the deal that he (Ibazeta) should be

Ibazeta: No foul play in proceedings

By Abigail L. Ho

JOSE IBAZETA, PRESIDENT of Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. (PSALM), yesterday declined accusations of irregularities in the bidding for the assets of National Transmission Corp. (Transco).

Finally breaking his silence on the multibillion-dollar controversy, Ibazeta said the bidding process had been transparent from the very start, with all potential investors treated equally and told exactly what to expect.

"We believe there was no foul play in the proceedings. The bidding procedures were clear, made known to all the prospective bidders, and applied equally to all of them," he said in a statement.

Ibazeta, however, did not address the issue of conflict of interest raised by opposition Senators Aquilino Pimentel Jr. and Ferdie Madrigal.

Shortening declined to comment on this issue or the inforcement of businessman Enrique Razon, trustees of the administration coalition Team Unity in the May senatorial elections.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunoy, Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita and Presidential Management Staff chief Cerge Remonde referred the inquiries instead to Ibazeta when they were asked about the Transco deal.

In his statement, Ibazeta said that "the procedures even give the bidders an opportunity to ask for a reconsideration of any decision on prequalification, to ensure that there is no abuse of discretion in PSALM's evaluation of the bidders' submissions."

He explained that as the prequalification stage, all documents submitted by would-be bidders were evaluated by technical working groups, whose assessment was then reevaluated by a review committee.

The review committee then made a recommendation to the PSALM board, which is composed of the secretaries of the departments of finance, energy, trade and industry and budget management, as well as the director general of the National Economic and Development Authority.

"Only those who passed the prequalification criteria were allowed to proceed with the bidding process. This is not leaving any party, this is merely complying with the strict requirements for the Transco operator as mandated in the bidding procedures and the Epira (Electric Power Industry Reform Act of 2001)," Ibazeta said.

He explained that at the prequalification stage, all documents submitted by would-be bidders were evaluated by technical working groups, whose assessment was then reevaluated by a review committee.

The review committee then made a recommendation to the PSALM board, which is composed of the secretaries of the departments of finance, energy, trade and industry and budget management, as well as the director general of the National Economic and Development Authority.

"Only those who passed the prequalification criteria were allowed to proceed with the bidding process. This is not leaving any party, this is merely complying with the strict requirements for the Transco operator as mandated in the bidding procedures and the Epira (Electric Power Industry Reform Act of 2001)," Ibazeta said.

"The PSALM board makes the final decision; no single person dictates or controls the decision on prequalification," Ibazeta said.

One of the bidders who did not make the list of the first four prequalified bidders—the La Costa consortium headed by former Finance Secretary Roberto de Ocampo and businessman Salvador Zamora II—had filed a case against PSALM and Ibazeta on charges of irregularities.

Since the case was still in court, Ibazeta declined to comment on the merits of the case, saying only that "no amount of public statements can change the fact that an entity which fails to comply with clear criteria must be disqualified." With a report from Christine O. Avendaño

Raising super bright kids 'enjoyable, humbling'

Front page 1

he glad that I have three kids, which is why," Cecile says in an interview in their home in Dasmariñas Village, Makati City.

The multi-gifted Qy (pronounced *guy*) drew public attention when at age 8 he wrote the lyrics and libretto for the musical "The Magic Island" and appeared in the production which was staged at the Meralco Theater a year later.

While attending Philippine Science High School in Quezon City, he copiously wrote short stories and novels, and painted abstract forms. He also wrote a musical score for a concert.

Photographic memory

Now a physics freshman at the University of the Philippines, Jan's keen "experimental mind," and translates his conceptions into stories, drawings and paintings. He is set to launch his own album on the Internet, his mother says.

His brother, Yeah, who started talking when he was 2 months old, devours books (history books are his favorite), and can readily recite names of personalities, events and places in history. he has a photographic memory.

He also started writing a novel of more than a year ago. Three in Grade 4 at International Montessori in Forbes Park, Makati City, Yeah is fascinated with the Internet; he is the first Filipino to join the Roblox role-playing gaming site.

The two brothers have appeared in Pinoy's Gifted Kids TV commercials.

The youngest, Aya, proved to be adept with purples and blacks. A first-grader at the same Montessori school, she has already shown interest in science and New Age books, according to her mother.

At the bookstore

Cecile shares an anecdote about her two younger children, who, like their eldest brother, have had their share of the limelight, already guesting in TV shows.

"I brought them to Power Books at Greenbelt and left them at the children's section, but they protested. Yeah likes history; Aya is into New Age," she says, chuckling.

"When I got back more than an hour later from a meeting, I saw Yeah teaching (OC) biography. I asked him if he wanted to buy it. He said no because he was almost through reading it."

Cecile, a graduate of Psychology, Philosophy and Political Science from UE admits that parenting gifted kids is "enjoyable, but it is not without difficulty."

Realizing that her background on psychology was insufficient, she made extensive researches on gifted children, and corresponded with experts on the matter.

Keen senses

She found out that her children, like other gifted children, have keen senses, and ask a lot of questions about anything we did the sun.

"It makes me read more, not only because they're a little advanced, but also because every parent should do this in order to communicate with their kids. I'm humble enough to be the student sometimes," Cecile says.

She realized, however, that she could only do so much since she also runs the operations of the family's trading business full time.

It helped that the couple joined the Philippine Association for the Gifted Inc. (PAG) shortly after Yeah started fulfilling comprehensively when he was two months old, and found support from members, who also have gifted children.

Nurturing the gifted

"It's not a guarantee that if you speak early you're gifted. In his case, it was useful, he spoke too early. That's why I joined the association; I was scared I wouldn't know how to deal with this anymore," Cecile recounts.

PAG, a nonprofit, nonstock organization, was founded in 1984 to help families, child care workers, and institutions identify and nurture gifted children and their needs.

The fourth week of November has been proclaimed "National Week for the Gifted and Talented."

Understanding the gifted child and his needs, and empowering the right approach are crucial to his growth and development, otherwise, things could go awry, Cecile stresses.

It's in the genes

"It's a very lonely world if you can't find someone to understand you," she says. "If the guidance is not very good, you could turn the gift into something, which could either benefit or harm society."

Their father Bob, an entrepreneur, taught himself how to play musical instruments when he was young, and has formed several family-dominated combos.

Cecile believes the children took after them.

"It's in the genes," says Cecile, who also writes articles on parenting, fashion and food for newspapers and magazines, designs and sells, among other interests.

Makati Business Club: Palace not doing enough

Front page 1

mental uncertainties.

A senior lawmaker acknowledged that the House of Representatives had failed to act on major pieces of legislation. In a meeting two months ago, House leaders promised businessmen those proposed measures would be passed by the end of the year.

Many distractions

"We were saddled by many distractions," Bacolod City Rep. Monico Puentevella said.

Puentevella cited the House's preoccupation with the impeachment complaint against President Macapagal-Arroyo, the leadership tussle between Speaker Jose de Venecia and Cebu Rep. Pablo Garcia, and the debate on the franchise of companies.

The lawmaker said he and his colleagues also had to work on the proposed P1.277-trillion national budget for next year.

"Give us three to six months to get the job done," said Puentevella, a principal author of the House version of the proposed Corporate Recovery Act and the proposed Credit Information System Act.

A clock with the bills and letters written showed that many of the proposed measures on the list of the Americans and European Chambers of Commerce to the Philippines were still at the committee level.

'Long-hanging fruits'

In a separate interview, Innovent, Julia D. Rolles, chair of the legislative committee of the American Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (Amcham), said there were some "long-hanging fruits in Congress that were ready to go."

"These would be helpful in enhancing the Philippines' competitiveness and should not take too much time to Congress to pass," Forbes said.

He cited as an example Sen. Edgardo Angara's personal equity and retirement account bill that was passed on second reading earlier this month.

"This would help overseas Filipino workers to save up to P50,000/ ($1,124 five), which could be invested in Cebu Bonds and markets and other investments. We have something similar in the US that works fine, and we hope there could be a counterpart bill filed in the House of Representatives," Forbes said.

Number is the reasonable ecogy bill, which with the rising oil prices to historical levels drome urgent, and to which nobody is opposed," he said. "And there is the credit information system bill, which got almost passed in the last Congress."

Forbes said the Amcham, together with the joint Foreign Chambers of Commerce of the Philippines, had brought up their legislative concerns in several letters to the leaders of both the Senate and the House.

"We understand the legislative process and that it takes time, but we believe these bills should not take until the last year of the session," Forbes said.

The Cagayan de Oro Chamber of Commerce and Industry supported the position of the American and European businessmen.

"This is indicative of the government's inability to address competitiveness," said Elpie Baraa, Oro chamber president. "Congress has been focusing more on political matters rather than on improving business climate and setting the general direction of the economy." Reports from Roneel R. Domingo and Christine V. Esguerra in Manila, and Ma. Cecilia Rodriguez, Inquirer Mindanao

Gov't revives $120-M JDV 'behest' loan case

Front page 1

ber of De Venecia's failure to repay the loan taken out when he was president of Landoil Resources Corp.

But Sabio declined further comment. He said he would discuss the case in a joint conference today.

Defendants said to a radio interview that she and officials of the Department of Justice would discuss the PCGG's reconciliation to resolve the civil case in the Sandiganbayan against De Venecia.

"It appears from the records submitted by the case research and development department that De Venecia and the assignees (his affiliates) to the deed of assignment have not fully complied with their obligations and undertakings," Sabio said in his letter to Gonzalez.

The Speaker's lawyer, Raul Lambino, said parties are to now discord between the House leader and President Macapagal-Arroyo were behind the PCGG move.

"It was clearly politically motivated," Lambino said in a phone interview. "It was how best to use by people trying to ingratiate themselves to them in power."

Jay Miguel, PCGG legal services director, said that PCGG officials had been discussing the legal aspects of the case with even before the Speaker's son, businessman Jose "Jary" de Venecia III, blew the lid off the $329-million National Broadband Network deal with China's ZTE Corp. to ostensibly win the Philippine bureaucracy.

Ministerial duty

Miguel denied that the PCGG's endorsement was a result of Venecia's relationship with Ms. Arroyo going sour after the Speaker's son's revelations of conspiring and bribery in the broadband deal that she subsequently scuttled.

"With or without ZTE, the endorsement of the chairman could push through," Miguel said, adding that it was by "ministerial duty."

The younger De Venecia is president of Amaretthon Holdings Inc., the lasting bidder in the broadband deal.

On the other hand, Venecia was slapped with a case by the PCGG shortly after the ouster of the late President Ferdinand Marcos in 1986. De Venecia was then the president of Landoil, which he founded, when it took out the loan in the 1970s.

Also, PCGG's pursuit of Landoil's outstanding unpaid stock loan is said to Marcos. The Philippine Export Guaranty backed the foreign currency loan.

In the settlement forged in July 1998, Landoil agreed to repay the loan. The part, which was signed by Ambrosio Padilla, who took over the company after De Venecia was in 1986, did not assign a deadline.

But the agreement protected that the government could run after the Landoil officials and its affiliates should they fail to comply.

The affiliates were the Philippine Singapore Ports Corp., Asian Water and Sewer Systems Inc. Construction Consortium Inc., Manila Asia Builders and Developers, Philippine Hospitals and Health Services Inc., and Greater Manila Land Corp.

Surprise news

Lambino also said the PCGG's decision was a surprise to De Venecia's camp.

"With all due respect, we don't think the Palace had anything to do with this," he said.

In connecting the proposed reopening of the case, Lambino said Landoil had surrendered to the government its rights to its collectibles.

Those include the proceeds from one damage claims by Landoil, which had construction projects in the Middle East, pending before an international court and which amounts to "hundreds of millions of dollars."

Lambino said that if these amounts had not been collected, it was because of the PCGG's handling of the case.

He also said that as far as he was concerned, the matter about the compromise agreement with Landoil was "settled."

Landoil dealt well with the Philippine government considering that it had voluntarily surrendered Marcos' shares in the company to the PCGG without its having a sequestration order as it did with those firms owned by Marcos or his business associates. Landoil said.

"If you look at it, it's one of the early cases resolved by the PCGG because of the voluntary action of Landoil," he said.

Unseen hands

Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez said that unseen "unseen hands" could be working to oust the Speaker.

"The Speaker does not lack enemies," Gonzalez said.

"The problem actually is even an innocent action can be given meaning. So I don't know why it came out all of a sudden. But maybe it's also because the entire PCGG process is under review by me," he said. With reports from Christine V. Esguerra, Norman Bordadora

AN APPEAL TO PRESIDENT GLORIA M. ARROYO

27 November 2007

HER EXCELLENCY GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President, Republic of the Philippines
Malacañang Palace, Manila

Madam President:

Greetings and best wishes from Subic Bay Freeport Zone!

On behalf of 41 **Used-Motor Vehicle Importers** inside Subic Bay Freeport Zone, we would like to appeal for your compassion and sense of fairness regarding the implementation of **Executive Order 156**, which has been reaffirmed by the Supreme Court recently.

While we thoroughly agree with your vision of strengthening the Local Industries, we would like to humbly point out that the Used-Motor Vehicle remanufacturing industry in Subic Bay Freeport has also made a significant contribution to the local economy in terms of:

- Payment of Custom Duties and B.I.R. Taxes
- Payment of Subic seaport charges
- Employment of Blue collar workers from Zambales, Bataan, Pampanga, Tarlac and nearby provinces
- Support small suppliers of Spare Parts, Vehicle Accessories, Car Paints and other items in Olongapo and nearby areas.

At present, our industry employs around **2,500 Workers** inside Subic Freeport such as: **MECHANICS, WELDERS, ELECTRICIANS, TRUCK BODY BUILDERS, TINSMITH, CAR PAINTERS and other laborers/helpers.**

Our Group is selling only the following:
1. **Utility Wagons:** Price Range is from **Php 180,000.00 to Php 400,000.00**
2. **Passenger Vans,** 7- to 14-**Seaters:** Price Range is from **Php 150,000.00 to 350,000.00**

- **All of our Vehicles are paid with TAXES & DUTIES as per Assessment of BOC/BIR.**
- **All of our Vehicles have passed thru "Vehicle Testing Centers" regarding Smoke Emission (Clean Air Act) and Roadworthiness prior to LTO Registration.**
- **We are not competitors of Brand-new Vehicles, made locally or imported from Japan, Thailand, Indonesia, China, USA, Germany & other Industrialized Countries.**
- **Vehicles Market Data and LTO Registration should show that we are serving only a small market segment.**

Our Buyers are:
1. **Small Traders & Merchants from the Countryside**
2. **OFW Families & Relatives who saved 1-2 years of their Salaries to have their first car for the whole Family**
3. **Businessmen from small Towns & Cities who have no credit facility from Banks**
4. **LGUs who cannot afford to buy BRAND-NEW yet have to deliver basic services to their Constituents**

After all, who does not want to have brand new vehicles? Unfortunately, not everybody have enough money!

As published in **Manila Bulletin dated Nov. 19, 2007, EASTERN SAMAR GOV. BEN EVARDONE**, also the spokesman of **Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (ULAP)** and **Secretary-General of League of Provinces of the Philippines (LPP)** have also appealed for your good graces to spare LGUs & small/medium enterprises from the importation ban upon implementation of E.O. 156.

"As Gov. Evardone had pointed out, the cheap second-hand motor vehicles are efficiently being put to good use as Ambulances, Patrol Cars, Garbage Collectors, Haulers of farm products and other much-needed community services. Banning the importation and sale of these second-hand vehicles would severely hinder the delivery of basic services to the farming sector and would hurt small businesses."

Likewise, **MR. CONRADO BANAL III** have similar opinion and had an interesting column titled **"Walk before you rain" published last May 28, 2005, page B2, Philippine Daily Inquirer.**

Madam President, Please amend EO 156.
Please do not allow our Industry to die!!!

Yes, we agree and support total ban on importation of Luxury Vehicles!!!
(BOC knows those Models & Types)

Yes, we agree that all Smugglers & their cohorts should be punished and put inside the jail!!!

Meantime, please allow SBMA, BOC, BIR & LTO to process all Documents required for all 2,000 imported vehicles that are already inside the Subic Freeport to be sold to the Filipinos. **Around 2,800 of which are NOT Luxury Vehicles and being sold only at Php 150,000.00 to Php 350,000.00.**

Otherwise, majority of our Workers and their Families will not have food in their table this Christmas!

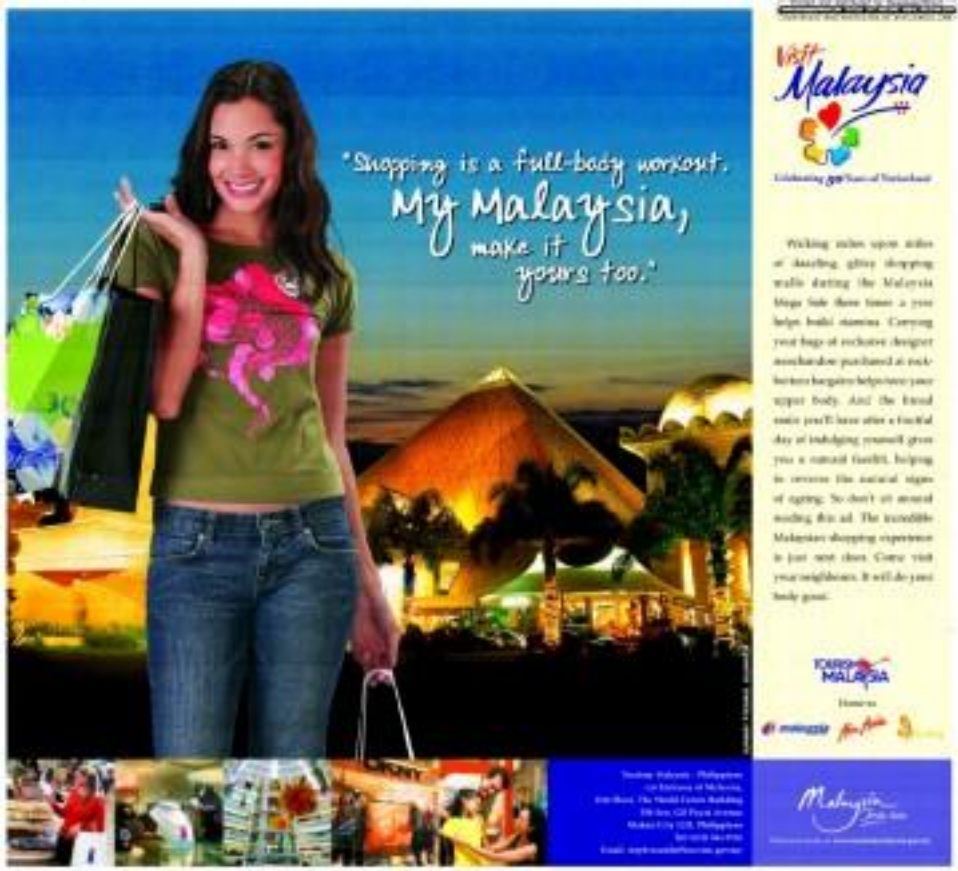
While we were prevailed upon by SBMA Executives not to have Motorcades and Rallies during the "Ad Congress" here in Subic from November 21 to 24, 2007, we may not be able to prevent our Workers and their Families to have their **Motorcade from Subic Bay Freeport up to the House of Representatives** to air our predicament.

In behalf of our 2,500 Workers and their Families, small Merchants, Traders, and OFW Families whose livelihood and small luxury in life are derived from imported used vehicles, we thank you in advance for your consideration in extending the life of our business.

Sincerely yours,

SUBIC BAY MOTORS CORPORATION	DCB INT'L TRADING	SMS CORPORATION	S.A.R. PLATINUM INT'L TRADING INC.
AKBAR INT'L TRADING INC.	HAIMIS INT'L TRADING INC.	RED BARON & SUBIC RISING SUN TRADING	SUBIC SHIMAN INT'L TRADING INC.
MMR INT'L IMPORTS INC.	ISHIHARAN TRADING CORP.	PHIL.-JAN SUBIC VENTURES INC.	SUBIC INT'L IMPORT-EXPORT TRADING CORP.
	LUCKY DALE SUBIC INT'L TRADING	AGUIVA IMPORT-EXPORT CORP.	

Note: We are 41 Registered Vehicle Importers in Subic Bay Freeport Zone. Other companies are not available for signature at short notice.



Earn Triple Rewards points on your weekend purchases this Christmas season when you shop using your Citibank Credit Card consecutively on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays. Plus, earn Double Rewards points on all other days.

To avail, register once by texting CITIspace16-DIGIT CREDIT CARD NUMBER to 2366.

Use your Citibank Credit Card now! Call 996 9999 or visit www.citibank.com.ph for more details.
To apply for a Citibank Credit Card, call 423 3000 or visit www.citibank.com.ph

This offer is exclusive to Citibank Silver VISA/MasterCard,
Citibank Gold VISA/MasterCard and Citibank VISA Platinum cardholders.

citibank
let's get it done

Aplus METRO

Editor Boots G. Dipasupil

DID YOU KNOW

TODAY, Nov. 27, is the 15th birth anniversary of Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr., after whom an airport in Pasay City is named. The Manila International Airport was renamed Ninoy Aquino International Airport on Aug. 17, 1987 in honor of the former senator who was assassinated as he was getting off an airplane on Aug. 21, 1983.

Cyril C. Bautista, Inquirer Research

Pasay youth leaders want SK polls voided

Famas gives major awards to 'Kasal'

By Marinell R. Cruz

DIRECTOR JOSE JAVIER Reyes' "Kasal, Kasali, Kasalo," a romantic-comedy that tackled the highs and lows of a married couple, won top honors during the 55th Filipino Academy of Movie Arts and Sciences (Famas) awards show held last Sunday.

"Kasal, Kasali, Kasalo" or "KKK" won in nine of the 16 categories it was nominated, including the Best Picture award for its producer, Star Cinema, while Reyes was named Best Director.

Reyes also took home two more awards for KKK—Best Story and Best Screenplay.

The movie's lead actress, Judy Ann Santos, won as Best Actress, beating veteran actress Gina Pareño ("Heimdor"), Marisol Sotelo ("Kung Wat"), Cherrie Pie Picache ("Eskalera") and Claudine Barretto ("Sukob").

Pareño, however, won the Best Supporting Actress award for her role as Jeanie' epileptic mother in "KKK."

Gene Morrones was named Best Actor for his performance in the psychological thriller, "Lipadas," while the Best Supporting Actor award went to Allen Dizon for his work in "Twilight Dancers," a film on male prostitution.

Tala Santos won the Best Child Actress trophy for her moving portrayal of a daughter longing for her mother's care in "Inang Yaya."

Christine Lani Jimenez, the son of former Bacoor Sen. Gen Lim "Charlie" Ilitgero, copped the Best Child Actor award for "Batang," the Ruben Tan horror film produced by his father.

Pat Ilarde won as "KKK" Wix Cajili won the Best Editing Award. Jessie Lasaw, Best Musical Score and Song Composition, Bed Thaine Sing ("Hanak Ko mga").

By Julie M. Aurelio

SANGGUNIANG KABATAAN IN Pasay City have asked the court to declare as "null and void" the disappointing Katipunan Nekabataan elections held last Nov. 11 as they accused Mayor Wenceslao "Peewee" Trinidad of manipulating the results in his son's favor.

In a 15-page petition filed at the sala of Judge Edwin Ramos of the Pasay City Regional Trial Court Branch 114 last week, the SK chairs pointed out that since they have yet to assume office on Nov. 30, they have no legal capacity to elect or be elected as officers of the city's SK Federation.

Named as respondents in the complaint were Jun Trinidad, the mayor's son who was elected president of the federation and the six other SK chairs who were elected to other posts.

The petitioners were Jennie Edna Pineles, Barangay 195 SK chair; Raphael Erese of Barangay 16B and Gerwel Ramos of Brgy 109.

They also asked the court to stop the youngest Trinidad and the other officers from assuming office.

Sought for comment, Mayor Trinidad said, "I would rather not comment on the merits of the complaint. That would be sub judice. I will wait for the court to decide."

However, he denied allegations that he had orchestrated the federation elections to favor his son, pointing out that Jun was elected by 169 out of the 201 SK chairs who participated in the Nov. 11 polls.

"My son's campaign was conducted very well ... I don't manipulate ... Even could you manipulate children?" the mayor told the Inquirer.

Jun was elected SK chairman of Barangay 68 in the Oct. 29 synchronized barangay and SK elections.

The complainants said that the mayor had invited them to attend their oath taking on Nov. 13 at the City Hall conference room.

"Acting as if he was the campaign manager of his son, the mayor sent letters to SK chairmen of Pasay City that in reality, he was creating the chairmen to support the candidacy of his son (for SK Federation president)," they added.

After the oath taking ceremony, the petitioners said Trinidad announced that the SK Federation would hold its election of officers and that a resolution convening a general assembly had been signed by the majority.

The complainants, however, said that the federation elections should be supervised by representatives of the Department of Interior and Local Government.

They added that the DILG had scheduled the synchronized elections for the SK Federation officers on Dec. 6, and not on Nov. 13.

GE Money Bank
A Savings Bank
DEPOSITS • SME LOANS • CONSUMER LOANS

Free GE Profile™ Ref or Microwave when you avail of a Home Loan

Apply for a GE Money Bank Home Loan from October 1 to December 31, 2007 and get a free GE Profile™ Refrigerator for every approved and availed loan of P1.5 million and above or a GE Microwave Oven for every approved and availed loan of P1.0 million to less than P1.5 million

Call us at (02) 721 8000
or visit participating branches

GE imagination at work

GIFTS and HOUSEWARE SALE
LRI DESIGN PLAZA

LRI Building-Wide Sale • November 16-26, 2007 • Open 10am to 7pm Monday to Sunday
LRI Design Plaza 210 Governor Pascual St. (Bayanan) Bel-Air II Makati City (893-1772 • 893-3470)

SALE EXTENDED UNTIL DECEMBER 01
UP TO 50% OFF
ON SELECTED ITEMS

'Cable theft cases abound in eastern Metro'

By Kristine L. Alave

MOST CASES OF CABLE THEFT IN METRO Manila occur in the eastern part, an investigator of the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. said yesterday after they charged two men and a teenager with cable theft in Pasig City.

Jose Mari Cayanan, a PLDT investigator, said they receive reports about cable theft in Pasig City and Rizal province every day.

He added that about two cases are reported daily in Pasig and around four in Rizal.

"Cable theft is really rampant. The PLDT loses millions from this," Cayanan said.

He added that robbers usually target copper cables as these can be sold at higher prices.

The wires are usually smuggled to China where the demand for copper is high.

The PLDT employee made the statement after the Pasig City police arrested three suspects accused of cutting P90,000 worth of cable wires on Sandoval Avenue yesterday morning.

The police identified the suspects as Ildefonso Oreña, 18, and Mark Joseph Cruz, 20, both residents of Cerezon de Jesus, San Juan City. A third suspect, a 16-year-old boy, was also arrested.

The police report said the suspects were caught by members of the Barangay Security Force at around 5 a.m. as they were trying to steal an insulated copper cable measuring 30 to 35 meters.

The watchmen also recovered two kitchen knives and a metric saw from the three suspects. The police said the group had five members, but the other two escaped.

All three are now detained at the Pasig City police station. Although one suspect, a minor, will be turned over to the social welfare department.

Cayanan said the stolen cable line is believed to disconnect telephone lines affecting about 600 households and business establishments in the areas of Ilaya Street in Pasig and Tuyinig Road.

TYPHOON 'MINA' NOT TO BLAME
Several lanes of Marcos Highway in Marikina, Antipolo City were impassable yesterday as a heavy water pipe crashed to flooding in the area, leaving motorists and commuters grumbling.

An appeal to Chief Justice Puno

ON TARGET

Hannah Jaqui

BANGERA FROM SUKSESSON ARE GETTING a lot of publicity—and needless to say, public sympathy—for their search from families here to Manila.

There's asking the government to hand over to them 1.61 hectares of land, said to be owned by the Quisumbings, that the claim is covered by the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program.

The farmers believe a struggle between the landless poor and the mighty landowners is the left and the poor.

But are they really landless?

The farmers belong to the Magsaysay Magsaysaying Pamphlets in their Lamud Mang in Bandag and the Sulit in San Vicente Landless Farmers Association.

These two associations, I was told, are allegedly co-owners of the 65 hectare property based on the Certificates of Land Ownership Awards.

The 1.64 hectares of land they want is adjacent to the 65 hectare land they reportedly own.

They can't have the land they want because Malacañang and the Supreme Court have ruled that the land in question is not covered by the CARP.

So why are they marching to Manila?

Maybe because of their perception that **the public is on their side.**

This columnist has been advocating justice for the oppressed, who mostly belong to the farmers in our society, but I think that of cable wires on Sandoval Avenue yesterday morning.

The police identified the suspects as Ildefonso Oreña, 18, and Mark Joseph Cruz, 20, both residents of Cerezon de Jesus, San Juan City. A third suspect, a 16-year-old boy, was also arrested.

The police report said the suspects were caught by members of the Barangay Security Force at around 5 a.m. as they were trying to steal an insulated copper cable measuring 30 to 35 meters.

The watchmen also recovered two kitchen knives and a metric saw from the three suspects. The police said the group had five members, but the other two escaped.

All three are now detained at the Pasig City police station. Although one suspect, a minor, will be turned over to the social welfare department.

Cayanan said the stolen cable line is believed to disconnect telephone lines affecting about 600 households and business establishments in the areas of Ilaya Street in Pasig and Tuyinig Road.

TYPHOON 'MINA' NOT TO BLAME
Several lanes of Marcos Highway in Marikina, Antipolo City were impassable yesterday as a heavy water pipe crashed to flooding in the area, leaving motorists and commuters grumbling.

An appeal to Chief Justice Puno

ON TARGET

Hannah Jaqui

BANGERA FROM SUKSESSON ARE GETTING a lot of publicity—and needless to say, public sympathy—for their search from families here to Manila.

There's asking the government to hand over to them 1.61 hectares of land, said to be owned by the Quisumbings, that the claim is covered by the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program.

The farmers belong to the Magsaysay Magsaysaying Pamphlets in their Lamud Mang in Bandag and the Sulit in San Vicente Landless Farmers Association.

These two associations, I was told, are allegedly co-owners of the 65 hectare property based on the Certificates of Land Ownership Awards.

The 1.64 hectares of land they want is adjacent to the 65 hectare land they reportedly own.

They can't have the land they want because Malacañang and the Supreme Court have ruled that the land in question is not covered by the CARP.

So why are they marching to Manila?

Maybe because of their perception that **the public is on their side.**

This columnist has been advocating justice for the oppressed, who mostly belong to the farmers in our society, but I think that in the case of the Sumilao farmers, it's the other way around.

Chief Justice Hilario G. Puno calls for **a shift in the concept of justice...from punishment or retribution, to restoring peace, repairing and preventing harm, and healing both the victim and offender.**

But what about the case of Jeff Quinsaat, 16, who's in prison for rape, a crime that was impossible for him to have committed?

I appeal to the Chief Justice to nudge the Court of Appeals into speeding up the hearing of Jeff's case.

Jeff is a quadriplegic, meaning he can't move his hands and feet.

In short, he is completely paralyzed.

I ask the Chief Justice to request the appellate court justices handling Jeff's appeal to go to the National Penitentiary in Muntinlupa City and see the man's **condition for themselves.**

Anybody would say Jeff would not be capable of rape after seeing him.

The longer Jeff stays at the maximum security compound at the Muntinlupa prison, the more injustice he inflict on an innocent man.

Let me just repeat what I have been saying all along: I may not Jeff's blood relative. Neither am I related to him by affinity.

I happen to know of Jeff's case through my dedicated "Sumbong mo kay Tulfo" radio and TV programs.

Why do our traffic enforcer allow truck loaders without tail lights in the streets?

My friend, businessman Rolo Pastrana, says he has been knocking at the doors of the Philippine National Police and the Land Transportation Office to swoop down on truck violators without tail lights, with zero results.

"It seems those government agencies don't care whether or not people are killed by those road monsters," Rolo told me.

It is unfortunate a number of people have been killed when their vehicles, stranded in the truck trailers that are either parked or plying the highways at night in without tail lights or without reflectors.

For your information, Eric, I'll tell you when the government will act—when a big wig or VIP gets killed after his car runs into one of these monsters on the roads.

Let's face it. The government—especially this government—is reactive, not proactive. It only acts after the fact.

US ambassador to MMDA: Good job

By DJ Yap

UNITED STATES AMBASSADOR Kenton Keasen paid a visit to the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority yesterday and commended the agency for doing a "wonderful job" keeping the metropolis clean.

"We see you on the streets managing traffic and helping this great, great city become a wonderful and vibrant city," Keasen told the MMDA employees during the flag-raising ceremony.

"Today is my big chance to express my thanks to you," she said.

First time

MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando, who wore a Stetson and Mexican sombrero for the occasion, said it was the first time a US ambassador visited their agency.

"This is an affirmation of the very good relationship between the United States and us," he said.

Apart from Fernando, Keasen was greeted by several local officials, including the mayor's wife, Marikina Mayor Marides Lourdes Fernando; Quezon City Mayor Feliciano Belmonte, Taguig Mayor Freddie Tinga, and Mandaluyong Mayor Benhur Abalos.

Keasen's chorus heads with the MMDA employees and headed out layed plus with American flags.

"Manila is such a special city to us. Hilad Bush was built during the 1900s and designed by the same person who designed my city in the United States, Washington D.C.," she said.

American architect and urban planner Daniel Burnham designed plans for the cities of Manila and Baguio.

After her speech, Keasen was serenaded by the MMDA Chorale with a rendition of Mario Ilusan's sillysong, "Magsuot Pasi Ka (You are to be pitied)."

The song is a composition of Fernando.

'Floating bookstore' visits Manila

By Tina G. Santos

FIRST THE DOOR OPENS. THE BIGGEST "Floating bookstore" in the world, the M/V Books, is returning to the country for the sixth time.

From the dockside arrow. This could be the last visit of the 99-year-old ship, according to the Manila city government, opening the ship's popular coordination.

Mayor Alfredo Lim earlier announced that the M/V Books would be docking at the South Harbor from Nov. 30 to Dec. 23.

Lim said he welcomed the ship's arrival because it would give the public a chance to buy books at much lower prices.

The ship carries more than 500,000 books and has more than 6,000 titles on display with subjects ranging from science, medicine, management, literature to children. It also offers a wide range of educational books on computer science, accounting, law, physics and geography, among others.

Over the last three decades, Books has visited more than 100 countries, welcoming more than 20 million people on board. It has 200 volunteers from over 50 countries.

The M/V Books, built in 1914 two years after the Titanic, was originally a freighter named Medina. In 1948, it was restored, lengthened and reinaugurated in Stockholm. The ship was transformed into a cruise liner in 1992. Its last visit to Manila was in January.

MetroBriefs

Homicide, not suicide?

THE MANILA Police District is now treating last May 6 the death of Jose Quintos, a 12-year-old boy, who was initially reported to have committed suicide in Binondo, Manila on Nov. 13, besides hanging, the boy's neighbor was arrested last Tuesday after Quintos's sister Catherine told the police that she saw the suspect inside their house punching her brother hours before the latter's body was found. Quintos was discovered hanging from a beam in the third floor of their house in Binondo. He was earlier reported to have killed himself due to depression. Catherine said she had observations that could give the police a chance to arrest the suspect would kill her next.

Tina G. Santos

Call for help from 3-year-old

TWO HOUSEHOLDS from Brgy. Kapitolyo have been confined at the Philippine General Hospital on Taft Avenue, Manila for the past five months due to an infection after undergoing an operation for hydrocephalus. A patient who suffers from this ailment has a buildup of fluid inside the head, causing the brain to swell. Because of his condition, the boy from Caloocan City, Abbas has been undergoing various attacks and loss of consciousness from time to time. His mother, Josie, is appealing to people to help her cure overseas his illness. "I keep hoping that he'll get better and live a normal life," Josie said in her letter to the newspaper. Her husband is a farmer in Bicol region. The Magsaysay can be reached at 9104 West 11 area or 929 8650 local 2122. Those who want to donate money can deposit it in Josie's Landbank account (account number 1460021068, account name "Josie Magsaysay").

Man lone casualty in Sta. Ana fire

By Tina G. Santos

A 54-YEAR-OLD MAN WAS KILLED IN A fire that hit his rented two-storey apartment in Sta. Ana, Manila early yesterday morning.

SFO2 Emmanuel Gregorio, arson investigator of the Manila Fire District, identified the fatality as Benito Aguilar of Bagtikan Street, Sta. Ana. He said the victim could have died of suffocation in a fire which lasted for 15 minutes.

An investigation showed that the fire broke out around 2 a.m. at the victim's room on the second floor.

Some residents in the area suspect that the fire could have been sustained by an unattended lit candle inside the victim's room. They claimed that the electricity had been cut-off in the victim's apartment.

Arson officials, however, said they were still conducting further investigation to determine the real cause of the blaze, which was put out around 11:15 a.m.

A relative of the victim told investigators that they were not aware that Aguilar was inside the room when the fire broke out.

He added that the victim was seen drinking with his friends the whole day last Sunday. Authorities placed the estimated damage to property at P50,000.

Tensions rise between Colombia, Venezuela

CHAVEZ AP

BOGOTA—COLOMBIA and Venezuela faced Monday the worst crisis in their bilateral relations in years after the Colombian president accused the Venezuelan counterpart of undergoing Israeli-Islamist government in Bogota and Caracas "brain" edition between the two countries.

"Your words, your positions, suggest you are not interested in peace in Colombia, but rather in possibly becoming the victims of a terrorist government of the FARC," said Colombian President Alvaro Uribe on Sunday referring to the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, the country's largest rebel group.

Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez said earlier he was shifting bilateral ties to "freeze," after Uribe dropped him and Colombian minister Piedad Cordoba as mediators in negotiations with the FARC (Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia) on possibly swapping ruptured leftist rebels for high-profile hostages the guerrillas hold.

"We cancel a mediation with terrorists, and accept cyber-terror to lend legitimacy to terrorism," Uribe said referring to Chavez.

Chavez had said in Venezuela: "I declare to the world that I am putting relations with Colombia in the freezer. I do not believe in anyone in the Colombian government."

"They have spat brutally in our face when we worked hard and used to try to get them on the road to peace," Chavez added.

He later said he's a television interviewer that he was now not ruling out severing the Andean Community of Nations, a trade bloc of which Colombia is a prominent member.

Venezuela withdrew from the group last year following its decision to join Mercosur, a different trade association led by Argentina and Brazil.

Caracas had been considering announcing it the Andean Community, but Chavez said it was now out of the question.

"Now we are definitely not going back to the ANC," he said.

In Bogota, Cordoba said Saturday she was being investigated by her country's Supreme Court for treason.

"They accused me yesterday. I am being investigated for treason and collusion," Cordoba told Radio Caracol from Caracas. She did not say if the charges against her were related to her work as mediator or to unrelated allegations.

Uribe approved Chavez and Cordoba for a Bush-Castro video on Aug. 31, following a phone call from Chavez to Colombian Army General Mario Montoya inquiring about the hostages.

Cordoba came under considerable fire in government circles for meeting recently with rebel commanders Ivan Marquez and Rodrigo Granda, whom the FARC selected to negotiate the swap of 45 ali-dozens for about 500 jailed guerrillas. AFP

Syria joins Arab league at US peace conference

WASHINGTON—SYRIA announced Sunday that it would attend the Middle East peace meeting beginning here on Monday night, joining Saudi Arabia and the rest of the Arab League participants in a turnaround that represented a victory for the Bush administration.

Syria, a supporter of groups opposed to a Palestinian peace with Israel, said it would send a deputy foreign minister to the meeting, which will continue Tuesday in Annapolis, Md. In return, Syria was promised that Israel's occupation of the Golan Heights, taken from Syria in the 1967 war, would be on the agenda.

The Annapolis meeting, a session initiative pressed by Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, will be the opening event in a push to broker an agreement before the end of President George W. Bush's term in office. The ultimate goal is a two-state solution to the conflict which simultaneously addresses Israel and the Palestinians by carving out long-postponed obligations contained in the first stage of the 2003 peace plan known as the road map.

The presence of the Arab countries, including Syria, is meant to provide fresh attention and support for the Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas to make the concessions required for peace. The Arabs promise Israel their acceptance and recognition of the Jewish state. But a comprehensive peace must also include a resolution of the occupied Golan Heights.

More important, however, Syria risked isolation from the rest of the Arab world if it did not come. Syria is already a kind of outlier, run by a Shiite minority and an ally of non-Arab, Shiite Iran. Syria supports Iranian-supported clients like the Shiite group Hezbollah in southern Lebanon, as well as Hamas and Islamic Jihad in the Palestinian territories—all fiercely opposed to a Palestinian-Israeli peace agreement or a recognition of Israel's right to exist.

The meeting spans Monday, as its President Bush has separate meetings with Olmert and Abbas, and a lavish dinner at the State Department. On Sunday at Annapolis, the three leaders will meet privately, then deliver speeches. Then, after lunch, conference meet in three consecutive sessions on the issues. On Wednesday, Bush will meet again, though separately, with Abbas and Olmert. NYT

BIG LEAGUE POLO

Elephant polo players from Clarence Regal of Scotland and Kristin Gardiner of Great Britain vie for the ball during the 25th International Elephant Polo Competition at Meghauly Forest in Chitwan District, some 200 km from Kathmandu on Nov. 12. The match, organized to mark the 25th anniversary of the formation of the World Elephant Polo Association, was won by Clarence Regal of Scotland. AP

Seoul Asia's costliest city for expats

SINGAPORE—SEOUL IS ASIA'S costliest city for expatriates outside the sanctuary you has made Japanese cities more affordable, a survey released Monday said.

The latest worker-study survey by human resources firm ECA International showed the South Korean capital jumped seven notches higher to rank seventh globally in a list of the most expensive places for expatriates over the last 12 months.

Tokyo retained its place as the second most expensive Asian city but globally the Japanese capital dropped out of the top 20 for the first time since because of the weaker yen.

"Depreciation of the yen against most other currencies, coupled with low inflation, has significantly reduced living costs for foreigners in Tokyo, Yokohama and Kobe in recent years," ECA International said.

Hiroshima placed third, followed by Kobe, Hong Kong, Taipei, Beijing, Shanghai and Singapore, with the Chinese city of Guangzhou taking the 30th spot, the survey said.

There were 15 Chinese cities featured in the list of 39 Asian cities surveyed.

Higher-level workers, along with the strengthening Chinese currency, have seen repatriates' living costs in Chinese cities go up, narrowing the gap with other more established East Asian locations such as Hong Kong and Taipei.

"In China, soaring food, oil and gross product prices along with the strengthening yuan against the US dollar have meant that locations throughout China have pushed up through the ranking during this period," ECA International said. AFP

In Bangladesh, a domino effect of crises

DHAKA, BANGLADESH—THE political storm that preceded today's latest arrests on Christmas still swirls overhead.

Nearly a year into an unprecedented state of emergency, basic freedoms remain suspended and a sweeping anti-corruption drive has stalled the jails with some of Bangladesh's most influential business leaders and politicians, and a huge economy is teetering under the pressure of floods at home and rising oil prices abroad.

The country's run-of-the-mill is currently the most explosive challenge facing the military-backed government that has run this country since Jan. 11, when, after debilitating political protests, scheduled elections were scrapped and emergency law was imposed.

Chaudhry Ashikur was commanded by an unusually harsh monsoon, which destroyed food crops along the flood plains to Italy.

Then, the May 15 cyclone destroyed hundreds of thousands of the country's coast, and, according to the World Food Program, left roughly 1.5 million people in need of urgent food aid.

Storm relief is now the government's most pressing task, including meeting basic human needs and rebuilding the devastated infrastructure. The government estimates that 10 million people were affected by the storm.

The way the military Bangladesh is being pushed every day was on dark display this afternoon in a motorcade that spirited Dhaka called Begumbari, a crowded mosaic of Government.

Abdul Alal, 62, a security guard who was buying cigarettes at the local market, quietly confessed that even with three grown daughters working in the garment industry, his family was finding it harder to put enough food on the table.

A trader who serves the neighborhood said his business had plummeted from about 30 orders a day to barely a couple. How can afford new clothes when the basics—onions, oil, cauliflowers—have become so much costlier. NYT

Australia PM-elect Rudd works on climate change

SYDNEY—AUSTRALIA'S PRIME minister-elect Kevin Rudd got down to work Monday on plans to sign the Kyoto Protocol and reverse unpopular labor laws that led to conservative leader John Howard's stunning ouster.

The moves left leaders in developing foreign and domestic policy following his landslide victory Saturday that ended Howard's 11-year reign and left US President George W. Bush isolated over climate change and the Iraq war.

A day after Rudd announced he was preparing to attend a major conference on global warming in Bali next month, his deputy Julia Gillard and their Labor Party would immediately honor a campaign promise to ratify Kyoto.

"Kevin will be making that decision but you can expect it to be very soon. We need to ratify Kyoto as part of our commitment to dealing with climate change," she told Australian television.

"Ratifying Kyoto on one day without the parliament sitting," she said, outlining plans to implement election pledges that also included withdrawing Australian combat troops from the Iraq war.

Rudd's victory will be hard already emotional address from ally cleric on whom materials could testify the protocol.

"We have just received that advice as I was driving our here and I've yet to read it," he told reporters a day after meeting senior bureaucrats of the prime minister's office to set out his agenda for the Bali meeting.

Howard's defeat stalpped Bush of a key ally in the core of the Bali conference. Australia and the United States are the only two major industrial nations not to have ratified Kyoto.

Rudd, an economist famous for his nerdish glasses-wearing image, has pursued global warming as his government's top priority, and he discussed with Howard on Sunday by telephone with British Prime Minister Gordon Brown and Indonesian President Australia Bambang Yudhoyono.

Howard and Bush refused to ratify the UN treaty aimed at cutting carbon emissions blamed for causing global warming, saying that doing so when China and India had not would damage their economies.

The political reversal comes less involved new labor laws that reduced worker protections and boosted the flexibility of employers, which parents very unpopular on election day.

Voters rejected him in a comfortable defeat that almost certainly will send Howard, his own electorate seat of 33 years, despite poll findings that most Australians believed his government was better equipped to manage the economy. AFP

RUDD AP

On nanotechnology, experts see more risks than the public

By Marlene Hood

PARIS—IN A SURPRISING REversal of roles, nanotechnology experts are more worried than the public is seeing a cause for concern in some aspects of their work, according to a study published Sunday.

Nanotechnology—the science of making things measured in units 10,000 times smaller than a human hair—holds spectacular promise in virtually every sector.

Hundreds of consumer products already contain nanomaterials, most of which are sunscreen, sunscreen and cleaning products with microscopic particles.

But this is the only field stop in what promoters of nano say is a revolution whose impact will be unlisted compared to the technological upheavals.

In medicine, nanoscale applications range from in-body drug-sorts devices to tissue-engineering to pinpoint drug delivery.

Nanomaterials be lighter and stronger than anything in use today could revolutionize the auto and airplane industries, and parallel developments are underway for robotics, computer, clothing, energy storage and air purification.

Two surveys, conducted among 1663 nanotechnology researchers and engineers and among 1,000 US adults, find no overlapping contrast in attitudes about this fast-moving yet untested technology.

The average Joe and Jane are more worried than the experts that nano will cause job losses, an acute race and a loss of privacy, according to the surveys published on Sunday in Science.

The scientists, accepting largely, say their work will lead to major breakthroughs in medicine, environmental protection and sustainable development.

But they are also significantly more concerned than the public about the risk of toxic pollution and unforeseen health problems from nano.

The authors of the study, led by Dietram Scheufele of the University of Wisconsin-Madison, think up this gap in viewpoints to two things.

One is that scientists have already launched a debate among themselves, and even some industrial labs, and harvest a lack of research in this field. At the same time, the media promote the potential benefits of nano and downplay the risk aspect, thus giving a distorted view to the public.

Researchers looking at nanotube are focusing on any effect on health from minute particles that are breathed into the lungs or from passive exposure that could be absorbed into the body to rapid damaged tissue. Questions have also been raised as to whether some nanotube could be toxic, for health and the environment.

"The Brass Ring is to use of very new and refined social regulatory engineering," commented Nigel Cameron, head of the Institute on Biotechnology and the Human Future at the Illinois Institute of Technology and an expert on nanotechnology.

"Public and political awareness of the technology—every bit as important as the technology itself—has been long talking about it for some time—is amazingly low," he said in an interview with AFP.

In the past, the arrival of new technologies such as nuclear power or genetically modified organisms are typically greeted with public enthusiasm followed by despair when an accident happens or when risks become apparent.

Such backlashes have had a crippling effect in some countries, prompting a freeze in pullout from nuclear power or a moratorium on genetically engineered crops.

By addressing the risks before their technology widely enters the public domain, specialists hope to avoid this backward rowing of the pendulum.

"Nanotechnology may ... be the first emerging technology for which experts may have to explain to the public why they should be more rather than less concerned about some potential risks," said Scheufele. AFP

The WORLD

Edu Governor B. Quiros

Sharif joins Pakistan poll battlefield

LAHORE, PAKISTAN—PAKISTAN'S EX-PREMIER Nawaz Sharif prepared Monday to file his papers for general elections, moving to capitalize on his political momentum after returning from exile to a hero's welcome.

After a procession from the airport to his city residence that lasted into an all-night party, Sharif spent a few hours recuperating and consulting with family and senior party officials.

He flew home with a defiant message for President Pervez Musharraf—who sacked him in a coup in 1999—as end a state of emergency now in its fourth week.

"Musharraf has brought Pakistan to the verge of disaster," he told a crowd of supporters at a dinner in Lahore's guesthouse, after vowing to rid the country of dictatorship.

Sharif's return, just over a month after another ex-premier, Benazir Bhutto, flew home from exile, strikes up the pressure on Musharraf to end emergency rule.

The military ruler has until Dec. 1 to hang up his uniform and name a new oath as civilian leader after a purged Supreme Court soldier-stamped his presidency for another five years.

Attorney General Malik Muhammad Qayyum told state television that Musharraf would take the oath on Thursday.

Qayyum was such until he resigning calls Monday his office said.

Sharif's return throws Pakistan's political powers straight back open with the opposition decided to subscribe to boycott the general election.

If he faces a prepared alliance with Bhutto he could count many problems for Musharraf and create defections from the president's ruling party.

But Musharraf's willingness to allow Sharif to return may indicate that the president hopes to split the opposition ranks.

Sharif denied any such understanding: "I have made no deal with Musharraf, my deal is with the people of Pakistan," he reminded Tuesday.

Nevertheless, he and Bhutto are both free-class premiers and have been bitter rivals in the past, and while they have been talking about formulating a joint anti-Musharraf strategy, analysts doubt their alliance will stand the test of time.

Sharif is a religious conservative while Bhutto, a secular leader, is seen by the United States—keen to perceive Pakistan's role in the fight against al-Qaeda and the Taliban—as pro-Western.

More crucial is the question of whether Sharif and Bhutto will boycott the election or they have threatened.

Staying away would rob Musharraf of the distinct to portray the election in his eyes around the world as evidence he is moving the country back toward democracy.

Taking part, opponents say, would be incriminated to legitimizing emergency rule.

Sharif and Bhutto both appear to accept they have to file nomination papers by Monday's noon deadline pending any future decision to boycott. AFP

FORMER Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif

The New C-Class is here and your driving experience will never feel the same again.

► The Agility Control system employs a selective damping system that automatically adjusts the suspension to changing road conditions, resulting in greater drive comfort and responsiveness.

► With a dominant Front grill, distinctive headlights and sleek lines that swoop dramatically upwards behind it, the New C-Class presents an unmistakable presence. Equally impressive is its ability to take on a distinctly luxurious, sporty or even track personality, depending on the preference of the owner made available through the Elegance and Avantgarde option design lines.

► Convenience is, quite at your fingertips in the New C-Class. The cockpit management and data system empowers you to take charge of the audio, video and telephone systems that functions with the Controller, a single button located conveniently in front of the armrest. Another special feature is the long-sized Bluetooth Telephone which allows you to take calls without taking your hands off the wheel, or your attention from the road. Visit our Mercedes-Benz showrooms today and C-Tee Yourself!

Mercedes-Benz

DBL...MVP

Mercedes-Benz Global Bldg. ... Tel. (632) 8707777 ... Fax (632) 8709700 ... Mercedes-Benz Greenhills ... www.mercedes-benz.com.ph

UNIVERSITY OF PERPETUAL HELP MEDICAL CENTERS

State-of-the-art Diagnostic Facilities in South Metro Manila

Headed by Chairman of the Board and CEO Dr. Antonio L. Tamayo, the University of Perpetual Help Medical Centers in Las Piñas City and Biñan, Laguna have each recently acquired the most advanced range of world-class high-performance Philips imaging equipment for greater diagnostic reliability and precision. The Brilliance™ CT 6 is a breakthrough 40-channel system that delivers lower dose and precise imaging while providing for increased patient comfort; the Exadra RC remote-controlled fluoroscopy system with DSA; the Essenta R&F Compact Radiography System for a wide range of diagnostic applications; the lightweight MV Ultra Mobile C-arm; and the Practic 600 Mobile X-Ray System.

Equipped with state-of-the-art machines, the **University of Perpetual Help Medical Centers** are now even more fully capable of providing physicians with the best diagnostic tools for more accurate outcomes and better-focused treatments for their patients.

The Departments of Radiology of U.PHMC in Las Piñas is chaired by Ernesto Pulido, M.D., with members Dr. Myla Macalalad, Dr. Leandro Mendoza, Dr. Emmanuel Atienzaro, Dr. Julio Sotto, Dr. Lydia Largado-Reyes, Dr. Brenda Polo-ayala, Dr. Wilfredo Armaiera, Dr. Juan Carlo Calimoso, Dr. Marivel Vivanco-de Guzman, Dr. Christine Roxas and Dr. Martha Josie Jacson-Mutilay.

Their counterparts in Biñan, Laguna are radiology department chairman Antonio Ma. Rico, M.D., Dr. Angelita Arellano, Dr. Ramon Dalangin, Dr. Noreen Ludovika, and Dr. Ma. Socorro Santos.

WHAT'S INSIDE
■ Masiello boots out Espedido /A26

SPORTS
Editor Tobbysin S. Melendres Assistant Editor Francis T. J. Delos Reyes
Sports.inquirer.net/sports.inquirer@gmail.com

■ LeBron does it all in Cavs victory / A28

Trap shooters tipped to bag 1st SEAG gold

By Jun Navarro

SHOOTERS JETHRO DIONISIO, Carlos Carag and Eric Ang could land the Philippines' first gold medal when the shooting competitions of the 24th Southeast Asian Games come off the wraps today at the Thailand Shooting and Clay Target Range in Bangkok.

Dionisio, the former world practical shooting champion and among Asia's top five trap shooters, competes in the event along with fellow veterans Carag and Ang.

"I watched them practice and they are in high spirits," said deputy chief of mission Ritchie Garcia, who headed the lead party of Filipino sports officials which arrived in the Thai capital over the weekend.

The 80-man team of Dionisio, Carag and Ang bagged the bronze medal behind home champion India and Kuwait in the Asian championships in Mesaimbogo City last October. The three are part of the 19-man shoot squad hoping to improve on the country's three gold collections in the last edition of the biennial meet in Manila.

The shooting competitions end on Dec. 3, three days before the official opening of the biennial Games in cheer Thai style.

CARLOS Carag, Eric Ang and Jethro Dionisio (from left) make up the highly regarded RP trap team.

"We might get one (gold) medal tomorrow (today). If they (fellows)," said Garcia, who is also a commissioner of the Philippine Sports Commission.

Garcia said the host country, Vietnam and Malaysia are the Philippines' strongest rivals in the sport. Three of the 26 gold medals at stake in shooting will be donated today.

Paul Brian Rosario, who runs the individual gold and powered the RP trio, also made up of Darius Alexis Alonzo and Nonoy Bermudez, to the skeet team championship in the 2005 Manila Games, is part of the RP squad in Thailand.

The country's third shooting gold in the last SEAG came from Juanito Arquiles, who ruled the men's provincial shotgun event.

On his 15th SEAG appearance, Nathaniel "Ike" Padilla hopes to nail his first gold in the Games. The 43-year-old RP shooting icon sees action in the rapid fire, pistol and center fire events.

Laylo yields to French GM

KHANTY-MANSIYSK, RUSSIA—FILIPINO Grandmaster Darwin Laylo added to French super GM Etienne Bacrot in the second of their two-game duel and bowed out after the first round of the World Cup top two last Sunday.

The French GM open champion (Enas 2695) won with the white pieces over Laylo, who advanced in the 128-man field by finishing seventh in the team-format/rapid Chess Championships held in Mandaue City, Philippines, last September.

Laylo was held to a draw by Bacrot in their first game despite playing white.

Other notable first round winners were GM finally Ivanchuk of Ukraine, who swept Pedro Adorio of Angola, 2-0; GM Shakhriyar Mamedyarov of Azerbaijan, who crushed Khaled Hatik of Egypt, 2-0; GM Levon Aronian of Armenian, who whipped Juan Bohnica of Argentina, 2-0; GM Alexei Shirov of Spain, who humbled Robert Gwaze of Zimbabwe, 2-0; GM Peter Svidler of Russia, who bested Eduardo Iturrizaga of Venezuela, 2-0; GM Michale Adams of England, who nipped Igor Engel of Canada, 1.5-.5; GM Alexander Grischuk of Russia, who outclassed Ginny Lima of Brazil, 1.5-.5; GM Magnus Carlsen of Norway, who downed Zong Zao of Seychelles, 2-0.

Pool B teams chase q'final bonus anew; Hapee targets No. 9

HOPWOOD

POOL B TEAMS tangle in a pair of crucial matches, while defending Hapee aims an attack to winning run in the PBL 3-on-3 Unity Energy Drink Cup today at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

Hopwood Mixx and Toyota Balintawak, both sharing the Pool B lead at 4-1, will clash at 2 p.m. with the winner making closer to the boys-to-beat quarterfinal privilege.

Phoenix will try to secure the last quarterfinal berth versus winless Bacolod in the 12 noon outing.

At Pool A, Hapee will go into its 4 p.m. bout versus San Mig Coffee with little pressure after an unbeaten run paved the way for an outright Final Four slot.

And coach Joe Bonifacio of Complete Protection still have the sweep to secure their ninth straight victory.

"The determination is always there, they never give up," said Noel, who for love downing consistent performances from Mark Barkman, Raul Jorolla, Larry Rodriguez and erstwhile Final Four Gabe Norwood.

Hall and Mixx coach Allan Gregorio also intimate confidence that his Cannons are peaking at the right time.

"The moves is in tune, everything is falling into place," said Gregorio. "But more than the physical preparation, the players' hearts and minds should be in the game."

Both the Cannons and the Road Kings are coming off wins that boosted their bids for the last quarterfinal berths.

The Coffee Kings, clustered in Pool A, already secured the first incentive.

Journeyman Jr. Jopa

V-League: Ateneo, UST tossers duel for title slot

GAME TODAY
(The Arena, San Juan)
12:30 n.m.—Santa Teresa vs Ateneo

JUST WHEN ABOUT everybody was expecting University of Santo Tomas to cruise trouble-free to the championship round, Ateneo emerged to calm the crowds.

The Tigresses and the Lady Eagles meet one last time today in the 2007 Shakey's V-League women's volleyball second conference to determine the tournament's second finalist.

The winner in the 3 p.m. duel at The Arena will face San Sebastian College in the best-of-three finals beginning Friday while the loser will be relegated to the battle-for-third against defensive University South match-ups set best-of-three affairs.

UST, also the UAAP defending champions, won the first conference crown with a sweep of three-peat NCAA winner San Sebastian while Ateneo could only fetch fifth.

Despite Ateneo dealing UST its lone loss in the eliminations round and even with the presence of sidelined Thai import Lidiawati Retiaret, it wasn't expected that the Lady Eagles could spoil an anticipated rematch between the first conference protagonists.

But the Lady Eagles were three out of their four semifinal games, including a 30-28, 25-21, 25-19, 23-22 whipping of the Tigresses last Sunday, to force today's playoff. Both teams finished with 5-3 records.

On the other hand, the Tigresses dropped their last two matches. —Romina L. Asuncion

ATENEO'S Crailford Arao tosses a bank off UST's Chance Taylor in their semifinal match yesterday

Eagles forge final duel vs UV Lancers

By Jasmine W. Paya

ATENEO AND THE UNIVERSITY OF Visayas arranged a championship showdown on the FILOIL/Flying V Sea-Ireland Collegiate Champions League after taking similar routes to the final round today at The Arena in San Juan.

Chito Tiu stacked early on the other league pretender the Santo Tomas Tigers, 93-88, in a highly physical encounter.

The sweet-shooting Tiu, a castaway of the national men's team, stunned the Tigers from a 0-7 start by pumping in 15 points in the first half built around a 4-of-7 shooting clip that helped his team to a 40-38 spread at the break.

"It was a physical game but we were able to accomplish a few things, which is rare, we pretty much controlled Jerry (Cruz) inside," said Ateneo coach Norman Black. "We knew we cannot stop Jerry we just want to control him and not let him have a consistent night against us."

Beaten-by-Ateneo Bernard and Michael Lago posted double-double performances as the Lancers dominated the second half for an 80-71 victory over the CU Olympians in the first semifinal bout.

"We had the advantage, especially at the low post," said coach Boy Cabahug of the seven-time Leyte Intercollegiate Athletic Association kin. (Email) champions.

Bernard came off the bench to finish with 21 points, 17 rebounds and four blocks. The 6-foot-6 bruiser even got some good moves when Toyota Balintawak announced it had signed him up to play in the new PBL conference.

The Eagles and the Lancers will fight for the title—and the P500,000 scholarship that goes with it—at 4 p.m. tomorrow at The Arena.

GAME SUMMARIES
(The Arena)
Tiu 6—0 0 0 0 0 15
Ilagan 4—2 0 0 0 0 8
Pinpin 10—4 0 0 0 0 20
Tiu 6—0 0 0 0 0 15
Ilagan 4—2 0 0 0 0 8
Pinpin 10—4 0 0 0 0 20

RP eyes end to 10-year Putra Cup drought

By Musong R. Castillo

THE NATIONAL GOLF TEAM MIGHT AS WELL DON a four-star glasses and have some to do a little reconnaissance on the side while the 2007 Putra Cup is being played.

After all, the opposition that the Philippine golf team will have to the coming Southeast Asian Games will be showing up in this prestigious event, making the tournament a virtual preview of the biennial event.

Singapore prepares its defense of the crown while the Philippines, Thailand and Malaysia are expected to unseal it for top honors when the event also functions as the Southeast Asian Amateur Golf Team championship kicks off today at The Country Club in Laguna.

Left without the reigning two-time event champion, the RP squad has Solomon's hopes on the shoulders of ex-national shine Jay Bayron, Sheldie Amora, Bernard Mudia and Mark Fernando.

The tournament itself has fetched an impressive backstory: Ending a 10-year title drought in the annual shot-making contest.

But no one is overlooking the foes from with the SEA Games just around the corner, getting a feel of the playing conditions ahead of the biennial meet.

"We take it seriously even because this will also determine the progress of the team while regard to its future bonding in the SEA Games next month," said Lopez.

SPORTSWATCH

Ramirez, Cojuangco head PSA Forum guests

A THREE-IN-ONE OFFERING FEATURING three big sports events in the coming weeks, makes up Tuesday's session of the PSA Forum at the Shakey's United Nations Avenue branch.

Invited guests are Philippine Sports Commission chair William Ramirez, Philippine Olympic Committee president Peping Cojuangco, newly elected Philippine Football Federation president Jose "Chiz" Mari Gonzalez and Cathy Piñilla.

Anniversary 4-cock derby

THE MUDA-ANNITES ANNIVERSARY 4-cock derby at Dimple Cockpit Stadium in Social Hoist, Parañaque, is scheduled Tuesday starting at 1 p.m.

Presided by Bacnotan executive Antonio Litonjua, the derby is in celebration of the cockpit's 10th year and offers a guaranteed prize of P200,000. For money is pegged at P5,000 with no handle and the gaffer of the winning entry receiving P20,000 and P10,000, respectively. The fastest kill will also receive P20,000.

Bakbakan champ eeship

THE RECORD-SHATTERING NPGM Bakbakan National 10-dog derby, which attracted 1,400 entries from all over the country, enters its grand championship today at Araneta Coliseum.

The champion and runners-up will receive their trophies and prizes right after tonight's last fight, said Rizzy Policarpio Jr., president of the organizing National Federation of Gamefowl Breeders (NFGB).

While Hermes of Cagayan Valley leads the series with nine wins and one loss.

Pasig weights submission

SUBMISSION OF WEIGHTS IS 8:00 to 2:4 top will be held today in connection with the Dick Season Opener 4-cock derby of Pasig Square Gardens.

Competition starts tomorrow, featuring the 12-cock elimination. Another qualifying round will be staged on Dec. 1 while the final action on Dec. 2.

For an entry fee of P1,200, the amateurs will get a guaranteed prize of P1.2 million. Hosts are George and Danny Ty and Manny Bartolo. For details, call 646-5858 and 646-5838.

Aguilar bags moto crown

MOTOCROSS STAR GLENN AGUILAR emerged a champion after beating Kenneth Ian Ancheta and Rodney Marcelo in the Sentosa Motorcycle Sports and Safety Association (Tiaosa) National Series at the Bad Track Circuit in Tagaytay City.

With his victory, Aguilar virtually bagged the 2007 Nelonio 125/250R crown as he stretched his margin over 56 points, which is already unattainable for pursuing in the final race that will be held on Dec. 9.

He also holds a 26-point lead in the 250/450 championship and Team RTM-Acosta Hot wore manager Ted Alberto, a former motocross and superbikes champion, expects Aguilar to nail an unprecedented 11th championship in the Dec. Open.

Aguilar's win actually doused cold water on earlier complaints that his motorcycle engine that may have violated the rule and regulations of the event.

Masiello boots out Espedido

JAPAN'S Hidehiro Sekino reaches to the Zukarnaen of Indonesia

SECOND SEED LUCA MASIELLO OF Italy sent Carlos Espedido, one the last Filipinos standing in the qualifying round, out of the Phoenix International Junior Tennis Championship by scoring a 6-3, 6-1 triumph yesterday at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center.

Playing his first competitive tournament after a two-week layoff, Espedido, a 17-year-old student from the La Salle Zobel, never got his rhythm as he failed to come up with an answer to the steady baseline game of the taller and experienced Italian.

"He's a lot stronger and had a very good serve," said Espedido, who will also contend Phuttiphong Jom-sophon of Thailand, 6-2, 6-0, in gaining the right to face the crafty Italian.

Espedido was the only Filipino left in the main draw after seven other homegrown bets were eliminated.

Earlier, top seed Benjamin Pingland of Australia humbled Ho Hao-yang of Taipei , 6-2, 6-0, third seed Ilarion Zukharnaen of Indonesia toppled Yoshiro Ishino of Japan 6-2, 6-0, and fourth Ryuhei of Indonesia defeated Filipino Marco Polo Ilanjog, 6-1, 6-0, in the boy's singles.

In the doubles side, top seed Hayley Erickson showed Kaede Hayasi of Japan the door with a 6-3, 6-3 victory.

When will RMSC be relocated?

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Mejia

SHORTLY AFTER HE WAS ELECTED president of the Philippine Olympic Committee in 2004, former Turks Rep. Jose "Peping" Cojuangco promised that "building a new stadium is a top priority to top POC presidency."

He told this reporter in an exclusive interview that the proposed Rizal Memorial Sports Complex has outlived its usefulness, adding that "we can't go anywhere in our quest for an Olympic gold without a modern international standard stadium with highly technical facilities where our athletes could train properly."

Even though the country is embargoed, the 72-year-old Cojuangco said he would find ways to source out the funds needed to build the new complex. He said he had found an alternative and ideal place to replace aging RMSC in Sorsogon, Bicol.

"Sorsogon is clean and cool, pollution-free and safe," stressed Cojuangco. Although it is a part of the Clark Development Zone, Sorsogon, which covers about 3,700 hectares, is still too far away from the controversial area in Clark Field where new names left by American servicemen were reportedly present.

Since then, nothing was heard about the plan. Because of this, an update from the POC would be most welcomed. Has my e-mail address: roland_bautista@yahoo.com.ph.

* * *

For the record, Cojuangco is not alone.

In the 1950s, several top sports officials, including members of the defunct Philippine Amateur Athletic Federation headed by the late Antonio de las Alas, started the move to relocate the RMSC to a more suitable, healthier and pollution-free location outside the city of Manila.

Those PAAF leaders sought the help of then President Carlos P Garcia to give them a grant transferring the RMSC to the area now occupied by the Quezon City Memorial Circle.

However, Garcia disapproved the request because, my sources said, he was not properly briefed beforehand by members of the PAAF executive committee.

Among those in the powerhouse delegation who called on Garcia were: Education Secretary Manuel Lim, PAAF president Jos. Ambrosio Padilla, Executive Secretary Enrique Quezon, PAAF secretary treasurer Teodoro Aquino, Sen. Lorenzo Tañada, Rep. Aniceto Rodriguez, AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Manuel Cabal (President Fidel Ramos was his aide-de-camp then), Director of Public Schools Dr. Modesto Bernardino, former POC president Col. Julian Mabunay, Dr. Fernando Bautista of the University of Baguio, former Leonardo "Skipper" Cuizon, Dr. Gonzalez Gonzalez, SSS Commissioner Ramon Quirolo and Cebu Rep. Eduardo Gullas.

* * *

Much later, many suggested other alternative sites, including Mayombaya City, which rookie Mariano Asunto said "has never been flooded because it is about 300 meters above sea level and overlooks the scenic Laguna Bay and the beautiful coolings at the Ayala Tagaytay subdivision and Sonsea Heights."

I said he: "The people of Mayombaya would prefer to have a modern sports complex in their city rather than be known for the infamous tag of Montalupa Bilibid Prisons."

Other possible relocation sites are the cities of Tagaytay, Baguio and Antipolo, or further down south, Cebu and Bacolod.

Then considered one of the most modern and the best in Asia, the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex was built at a cost of P15 million in 1936, when Jorge Vargas was the PAAF president.

In 1952, President Manuel L. Quezon spearheaded the construction of the RMSC in memory of national hero Dr. Jose Rizal. Several events were held to raise funds for the project, including the sellout three-game baseball series in December 1951 featuring American baseball legends Babe Ruth, Joe Gehrig and Charlie Gehringer.

Dimakiling stays in contention

WORSAU QN: Zhong Jin ponders her next move against Wesley So.

By Ray Loreta

IT WAS INTERNATIONAL MASTER OLIVER DIMAKILING'S turn to gain ground in the sixth round of the 2007 President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo Cup international chess championship at the Duty Free Fiesta Mall in Paranaque City last Sunday.

The Team chess Olympian bested fellow Filipino Dino Sullower with the white pieces to climb to a share of third on seventh place with seventy-point Grandmaster Mark Paragua, GM-rio Abalaro Shirley Jo and Ronald Dalida and unbeaten Indonesia Ambeler with 4.5 points out of a perfect six.

They were only half a point behind top seed IM Yu Hua and Li Chao, both of China.

Si, the highest-rated players in the nine-round Swiss system event with an Elo of 2643, halted Li's five game winning streak to the featured sixth round encounter.

The 23-year-old Paragua, bidding to regain his status as the country's highest-ranked player, drew with Andalor at 40 moves in all-Filipino encounter.

So, only 14, and Dalida agreed to halve the point, while Sullow trounced Alex Milagroso.

Filipino GM consolidator Jayson Gonzales and Singapore-based Filipino Julio Sadorra were in a big hassle at 4.0 points.

Chinese WGM Zhang Jilin showed her mettle when she upended IM Chin Gwana.

Former Crimy Lemiel Bernales also showed her mettle by shocking three Chinese Olympian WIM Beverly Wendoza in an all female duel.

Other participated results are IM Ronald Bancod roughey Victor Emre Dach, Surya Pebrodi of Indonesia down Voltaire Bevillano, Emmanuel Senador trip Robert Sholo Jr., Ernesto Fernandez atop WGM Cu Xiaosheng of China, Richard Bloom Inevible Rodrigo Antonio, FM Roderick Sison subdue Rodolfo Hocopin Jr and IM candidate Kim Steven Tap trounce Christopher Castellano.

Dimakiling was tangling with 16 while So was battling Li in the seventh round at presstime.

Camacho, other RP bets do good

ANTIPOLO, TURKEY—CHERADEE Chardine Camacho is keeping the Filipinos' bid alive to the World Youth Chess Championships at the Limtex Hotel here.

The 14-year-old Camacho chalked up five wins, two draws and one loss in game s chase of fourth to ninth places after eight rounds in the girls 14 years old and under category.

Camacho nads top seed WGM Nini Bakidze of Georgia by a point and Kazanyan Adamovich of Poland and WFM Dini Gavrilova by half a point.

Rachlin Pascua, Bail Victor Orbina and Emile Jamea Florendo are also doing well in the boys' 14, 16 and 18 years old and under categories.

Pascua is tied for 20th to 28th places with 5.5 points, one a half point behind solo leader (W) Imtiaah Nhh of Turkey.

Orbina chalked up 6.5 points, good for a tie for 30th place, while Florendo has five points, two points behind Ian Ogew of Russia.

Tougher Bautista faces Meza Dec. 2

BEY "BOOM BOOM" BAUTISTA has learned his lesson. He will seek redemption when he targets with Mexican tangler Antonio "Barrio" Meza on Dec. 2 at the Araneta Coliseum.

Sent to the canvass twice and handed his first loss by Mexican Gerardo Pinto in their co-right in the fine round in his last outing, Bautista now knows that his pounding power won't suffice. He's got to learn to evade killer blows as well.

Toward the end, Bautista has turned diligently at the ALA Gym and another world-ranked Filipino fighter—J. "The Great" Rivero...serves his subtle mate to new senses completely fighter.

Though Boom has been working feverishly to prepare for this fight," said Cuevas. "But more than that, he has added head movement and other defensive stuff to complement his offensive arsenal."

The 22-year-old Bautista will headline the Prelude and promoted by Third Rose Promotions and ABC-5. Ashwin L. Lagumbay

2007 Orduna cruises to victory

Orduna routs field

FOR JOSEF ORDUNA, SIMPLY winning the Overall Mini-ROB race was't enough. He had to do it with splendor.

The 12-year-old Orduna of SGB Team Racing Team capped a dominant season by powering across the checkered flag to lap of the 2007 National Karting Super Series at the Carmona Circuit Philippines.

Orduna, a Grade 8 student of Hitachi Memorial School, showed was posters driving to get the fastest laptime of 40.991 seconds and turn back Cebuano rivals Ian Calderon and Tonyo Cantel for the overall title.

He completed the 12-lap final race in 12 minutes and 13.696 seconds to beat Calderon by 11 seconds and bring his total to 163 points.

"It's now or never. Don't why I gave it all I got," said Orduna, who headed Wave as, Standard Investment, Ford Racing, Oakley Aces, Runners Karting, AsiaPac, Ironhorse, TonyKart, HC Auto Fabricks, MWS Karting Groups, RRC Karting Aces and Alpinestars Racing Apparel for backing his campaign.

Orduna also cited the support and encouragement given by his parents Jake and Jhoy and team leaders as major factors in his success, three at the Carmona Circuit Philippines and one each at the Batangas Karting Circuit, Subic Thunderdrome and the Boardland Track, out of eight races.

With his lead mission accomplished, Orduna will now focus on the overall Asian Karting Mini-ROB glory to be finals of the 2007 Asian Karting Open Championship in Macau on Dec. 15. Ray Loreta

FBL 4-game finals up

THE METRO MANILA FUTURES Basketball League (FBL) Cinderella Runner-Up season takes all championship games in four divisions...mens, midgets, and junior for both boys and girls...on Sunday.

The mens division will host defending titlist Stevens de Manila's 9-team meeting Sto. Cloo International Academy for the crown at noon, Last weekend, Stevens 6-edged Internat Academy, 8-6, 10-33, while Sto. Cloo beat Don Bosco Makati, 65-37, to avenge their 6-

the showdown at the Ateneo Tie courts of Xavier in San Juan.

Two games are up in the showdown between the girls' teams of Adamson University and San Beda College starting at 9 a.m. Adamson claimed the first finals' slot at the expense of St. Theresa's College, 43-32, while SBC Alabang had a more difficult time against Ateneo Preparatory School before winning, 43-37.

In the boys' division of the junior category, it will be an all-UST affair as UST-A meets UST-S.

The Ten Accomplished Youth Organizations Awards:

Celebrating the power of the Filipino youth to make a difference.

presented by: barkada and TEAM ENERGY

organized by:

awardees

the finalists

with the support of:

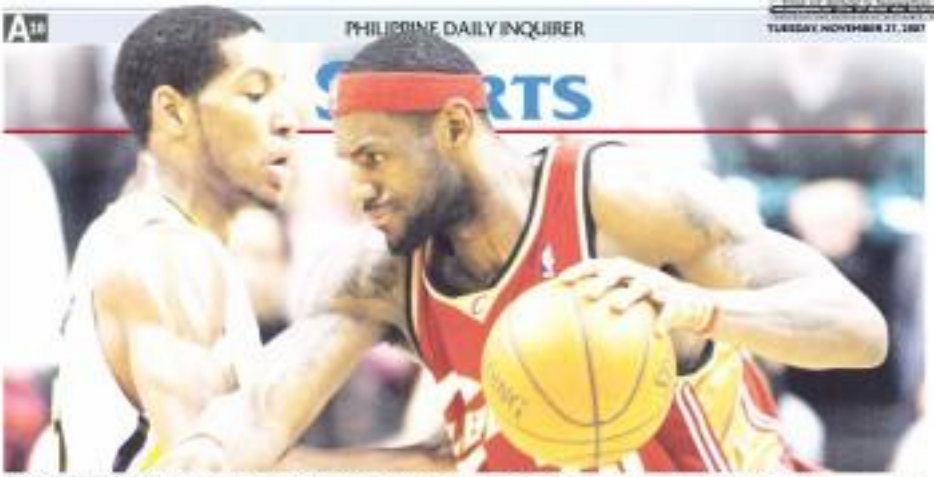
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

CEBU PACIFIC

SMART

Receive updates regarding TAYO 8! Text TAYO to 2048 or call 0917-898-TAYO.

SPORTS



KING JAMES STRIKES AGAIN. Cleveland Cavaliers forward LeBron James (right) drives around Indiana Pacers forward Danny Granger as he was to get another triple-double performance.

LeBron does it all in Cavs victory

Boozer, Williams shine as Jazz end home winning streak of Pistons

INDIANAPOLIS—LEBRON JAMES HIT his fourth triple-double of the season, and the Cleveland Cavaliers beat the Indiana Pacers, 111-106, Sunday for their third straight win.

The National Basketball Association leading scorer finished with 30 points, 11 rebounds and 10 assists.

It was the 14th time he had double figures in three statistical categories in his NBA career and his second straight after registering 37 points, 12 rebounds and 12 assists in Cleveland's 111-108 victory over the Toronto Raptors Saturday.

Drew Gooden had 23 points and 12 rebounds, and Sasha Pavlovic added 22 points and five assists for the Cavaliers.

In Auburn Hills, Michigan, Carlos Boozer had 36 points and 11 rebounds and a healthy Deron Williams added 33 points and 11 assists to help the Utah Jazz end the Detroit Pistons' perfect home run with a 102-93 victory on Sunday.

The Pistons had won four straight at home before being held to 39.5 percent shooting by the Jazz.

Pilib Sanford Mitchell, signed, the Pistons had no one to contain Boozer, who was a stunning 17 of 20 from the floor.

"You could see four-week quakes in me, how much crisper his passes were, his feet," Boozer said of Williams.

Williams, fit to play for the first time in weeks after having an ingrown toenail removed, connected on six of 12 field-goal attempts and eight of nine free throws to go with his double-figure scores.

"He just seemed like a different player out there than the last like five or six games," Boozer added.

Boozer showed why scoring 14 points in the second quarter—two less than the Pistons did as a team—when the Jazz took a 57-50 lead, closing with a 20-7 run.

Williams had seven of his 14 free-ball assists in the decisive second period.

"We wanted to just push the tempo," Williams said. "This is a team that we feel like we can run against. They like to slow it down, like to beat you up. We tried to push it against them a little bit, get some easy shots, easy layups, get our confidence going."

In Seattle, Tim Duncan scored 26 points and San Antonio scored the first 22 points of the third quarter to break away for a 116-103 win over the Supersonics.

Manu Ginobili and Tony Parker each scored 22 for the Spurs, who at 12-2 are off to their best start after 14 games in team history—one game better than last season.

Reserve Molly Geesebaek scored 27, including a season-high 20 for the Sonics in the second quarter, and Kevin Durant ended a shooting slump with 25-on-11-for-15 shooting for Seattle, which matched its worst start since its inaugural season of 1967-68. The Sonics are 0-6 at Key Arena, their worst home start ever.

In Los Angeles, Jason Kidd had 21 points and 14 assists to help New Jersey overcome Kobe Bryant's 31 points and beat the Lakers, 102-100.

Richard Jefferson had 27 points for the Nets, who have seven wins straight following a six-game losing streak. Vince Carter had 19 points in a reserve role and Boston Nachbar scored nine of his 21 points in the fourth quarter.

Bryant, Kidd's teammate on the US national team, made 11 straight free throws before missing a shot-foul shot with 6.1 seconds to go. AP, Reuters

GAME TODAY (Smoothed 11)
9:30 a.m.—Houston vs. L.A. Clippers (replay of 8 a.m.)

Beckham still wants to play for England

TIRED! Spikes of the Philadelphia Eagles tackles Kevin Faulk (top) of the New England Patriots.

SYDNEY—DAVID BECKHAM SAYS HE IS eager to help England qualify for the 2010 World Cup and claim his 100th international cap.

The 32-year-old former England captain, keen to appear for his US club LA Galaxy in an exhibition match on Sunday, believes he has the experience and passion to play on for his country.

"I want to go on and I believe that I can," Beckham said Monday. "I believe that I've got the experience and the passion still to play for my country.

"I hope when the next manager comes in he will give me that chance, but we'll have to wait and see."

Beckham set up one of England's goals in last week's 3-2 European championship qualifier loss to Croatia which wasn't enough to save England's skin, or that of manager Steve McClaren, who was promptly sacked.

Beckham, however, considers his England days far from over and his international struggles have ironically made the looming qualification for the 2010 World Cup.

"We've got to go on with a positive frame of mind," he said. AFP

Patriots keep slate clean

BOSTON—THE UNBEATEN NEW England Patriots rallied in the fourth quarter to beat the Philadelphia Eagles, 31-28, and celebrate wrapping up their divisional title on Sunday.

Laurence Maroney scored on a five-yard run to put the Patriots (11-0) in the lead with 7:20 to play and Asante Samuel made his second interception of the game minutes later as New England continued its bid to become the first NFL team since the 1972 Miami Dolphins to go undefeated in a regular season.

The Patriots, who had already clinched the AFC East title when the Buffalo Bills routed the Miami Dolphins, 56-10 on Thursday, were in more upset stress the Eagles, sparked by quarterback AJ Feeley and an aggressive defense, led 28-24 before Maroney scored.

The Eagles made one more bid, driving to the New England 29 and to within range of a tying field goal but Samuel nailed the win with his interception of Feeley's pass.

"It was not surprising," Samuel said when asked about the Eagles, who were without injured starting quarterback Donovan McNabb. "They have a great, New Coast offense and we played terrible." Reuters

US sprinter, Ethiopian lung-buster get awards

MONTE CARLO, MONACO—World champion sprinter Tyson Gay and middle-distance runner Meseret Defar were World Athletes of the Year awards on Sunday.

Gay won the 100- and 200-meters at the world championships in Osaka, Japan, and was part of the victorious 400-relay team. That made him the fourth man to win three golds at a single meeting.

"To follow in Carl Lewis' footsteps is just a great honour," said Gay, referring to the first man to win the award in 1988. "I honestly think that I need to have the world record like some of the other great sprinters like Carl Lewis, Maurice Greene. I think that are you apart."

The 25-year-old Gay also won the Jesse Owens Award earlier this month as the outstanding men's track athlete in the United States in the 2007.

Defar set the 5,000-meter world record at the Van Damme Memorial meet on Sept. 14, smashing her own mark by almost 12 seconds. The Ethiopian finished in 8 minutes, 58.58 seconds.

The 22-year-old Defar also set world records in the 3,000 and other indoor 5,000 this in the season, and won the 5,000 at the Aug. 25 Asia Trials in Osaka, Japan.

"I don't have words to describe how happy I am," said Defar, who runs all her races this season. "This is very special for Ethiopian women. Those who struggle very hard and take short have very many opportunities to achieve the highest levels of athletics."

Jamaican Asafa Powell was named's performance of the year for his world-record time of 9.74 seconds in the 100 meters, set in Italy, in September.

High jump world champion Blanka Vlasic of Croatia won the women's award by clearing 2.08 meters in Stockholm. Svetoslav, coming closer to the 2.09 meter mark that has stood for two decades. AP

Mazda Hotline Mazda Alabang Mazda Greenhills Mazda Makati Mazda Quezon Avenue Mazda Cebu

Website: www.inquirer.net/business

BUSINESS

Editor: Raoul D. Maraño ■ Assistant Editor: Corrie S. Mariano

Send your feedback: inquirer.business@inquirer.net (Globe) or 203 (Smart) E-mail: business@inquirer.com.ph

Q3 GDP growth seen at 6.1-7.1%

IN THIS ISSUE

■ **Tax amnesty** scheme covers unpaid estate taxes /B2

■ **Ayala** raises P6B through 5-year peso bond floor /B4

■ **Asia** shares rebound on US retail hopes; yen up /B5

In '08, peso seen to reach 38 to a dollar

By Dan's C. Dumlao

THE COUNTRY'S SECOND BIGGEST LISTED thrift bank Citi—SPI2 expects the peso to appreciate to as much as 38:$1 next year on strong overseas remittances, modest US dollar and improved Philippine macroeconomic fundamentals.

In his macroeconomic outlook for 2008, SLED chief economist Jonathan Ravelas said that the foreign exchange market however would likely remain volatile and given the local peso's strong performance, a correction may be forthcoming.

Ravelas projected that any pullback in local peso would be limited to 40:$1.

"Strong OFW [overseas Filipino workers] remittances, along with portfolio flows, will help keep the currency on the stronger side," Ravelas said. "But the currency will remain volatile amid economic reading."

Ravelas said the government's healthier fiscal position and the country's sustained growth performance would nevertheless support the local currency.

From a high of 5.3 percent in 2002, the government's fiscal deficit-to-GDP (gross domestic product) ratio has shrunk 1.1 percent as of end-2006.

"A balanced budget seems to be the order in 2008," Ravelas said, using the gurus. main's target to wipe out the deficit by next year.

But he added that a sovereign credit rating upgrade would not be likely given uncertainties

Neda: '07 growth may be RP's strongest in 30 years

By Michelle V. Rivera

THE COUNTRY'S ECONOMY MAY HAVE EXPANDED in the third quarter by as much as 7.1 percent from a year earlier, setting it on course for its strongest growth in over three decades this year, the National Economic and Development Authority said yesterday.

Augusto Santos, acting director general of the NEDA, yesterday told reporters that third quarter growth could come in between 6.1 and 7.1 percent.

If the country's gross domestic product grew by 7 percent in the July-Sept period from a year earlier, the full-year performance would likely be 7 percent—the country's strongest performance since 1976.

Also, an investment bank based in the United States expects the Philippine economy to grow in 6 percent by 2009 as among that the country sustains its macroeconomic reforms.

In its global weekly monitor dated Nov 23, Lehman Brothers expressed optimism that the economy could even top this year's economic performance.

According to Santos, strong protection from the agriculture sector and increasing income from the services sector are key some of the factors that would help pull economic growth to a

Small borrowers in limbo as NHMFC wash off hands

By Dante L. Lucas

[Exclusive]

IT IS NO EXAGGERATION TO SAY that the Special Purpose Vehicle Act has breathed new life into the local financial system by allowing lenders to securitize thousands of billions of pesos worth of bad loans.

The rush to clean up nonperforming assets, however, has affected small borrowers like Alex Macarilla, and at least two other employees of Sunrise Development Corp., who woke up one day to find that their guarantees backing loans have been sold to Subay Financial Services 2007-1, a firm they had never dealt with in the past.

"We don't even know who they are," Macarilla said in an interview. "Suddenly they're entered in to us because our name," according to the National Home Mortgage and Finance Corp. (NHMFC), which sold off P3.5 billion worth of housing loans to private creditors Saturday morning. Financier Inc., and to service provider SPV, as part of an effort to give its financial balance sheet a

SPECIAL REPORT

A bigger sedan for less. Get a Lancer through...

The Mitsubishi CHRISTMAS TREATS

as low as P85,000

and

P52,000

or

Lancer GLX or GLS CVT for as low as 36 months

It's so easy to get one this Christmas with Mitsubishi's EASYOWN

Model	DP	12	18	24	30	36	48	60	72
Lancer 1.6 GLX MT	680,000	44,000	31,464	24,613	20,186	17,196	13,044	10,529	12,903
Lancer 1.6 GLS CVT	750,000	30,000	58,530	45,808	37,547	32,756	25,218	19,884	14,124

Promo ends December 28, 2007

MITSUBISHI MOTORS
Drive beyond

Tax amnesty scheme covers unpaid estate taxes

Law covers all unpaid taxes in past years up to '05

By Ma.Isolin V. Ruivo

THE BUREAU OF INTERNAL REVENUE has issued a circular clarifying that unpaid estate taxes are covered by the ongoing Tax Amnesty Program.

Revenue Memorandum Circular No. 49-07 was issued amid confusion among taxpayers on whether estate taxes were covered by the program.

The Tax Amnesty Law and its implementing rules and regulations—which are both clear in covering income, value-added and other major taxes—are silent on inheritance individuals who have unpaid estate taxes may apply for amnesty.

Revenue officials, however, have stated in the past that the Tax Amnesty Law encompassed all unpaid taxes in previous years up to 2005.

Estate tax is charged on individuals who automatically inherit real property as a result of death of the original owner of the said property.

The BIR said in a statement that the property's fair market value at the time of death of the original owner, and not the value in 2006, would be considered in computing

HEFTY. The net worth, which would be the basis in computing the 5 percent amnesty rate.

According to the BIR, "net worth" is the difference between the assets and liabilities of the original owner of the property.

In the same circular, the BIR also said that individuals who have difficulty in the payment of taxes on real estate transactions—such as capital gains tax and documentary stamp tax on sale of real property—could also apply for amnesty.

The BIR clarified, however, that individuals qualified for amnesty were only those who were short on their tax payments. This means that those who did not at all pay any tax on the sale of real property are disqualified from the amnesty program.

In the case of deferred taxes on sale of real property, the 5 percent amnesty tax will be computed based on the "increase" in the individual's net worth, and not directly on the net assets.

Revenue Commissioner Lilian Hefti made an appeal to concerned individuals to avail themselves of the tax amnesty as they would have a worry-free holiday season and start with a clean slate next year.

The Tax Amnesty Law, passed by both Houses of Congress last Feb. 7, prohibits the implementation of another tax amnesty program after the current one lapses.

This provision is to let the public know that the government will no longer offer amnesty programs in the future. It is intended to discourage the people from not paying their taxes correctly.

The law gives immunity to qualified applicants from prosecution, deficiency taxes and any amnesty tax of 5 percent (either of net worth or increase in net worth) or other prescribed amounts, whichever is higher. The prescribed amounts are based on the types of taxpayers and their capitalization (for corporations).

BIR officials and Congressmen Dan Fua, former member of the Tax Amnesty Law, have been conducting roadshows nationwide to invite concerned taxpayers on avail themselves of the amnesty.

ONE OF THE BEST-SELLING PAPER SHREDDERS IN THE PHILIPPINES

Justice on call

BREAKTIME

Contrado R. Bunal III

GOMI, SOME 56 INDIVIDUAL INSIDER ARE marching from Bohol to all the way to Mahatsing.

Reports say that they are actually "farmers," who are demanding that the administration award to them a 144-hectare property in Stanislao town, in that province under the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program. You know, that same CARP.

Nobody are doubt that the protest march makes for good media coverage.

Press releases leak, however, the whole thing smacks of "agricultural land reform," insofar as what the wife carries out when she does not get what she wants.

It seems that the "farmers" are resorting to this dramatic march, complete with media coverage and all that jazz, because the Supreme Court only days ago ruled, with finality—that these 144 hectares were exempted from land reform.

In other words, it is not really about "justice," as media would want to call the dramatic protest march.

The Supreme Court already ruled on the case, right? Where it comes to justice, you cannot get any higher than that!

The property actually belongs to the Quisumbing family of Cebu who, in turn, bought it from the Cacho family some 39 years ago.

The Quisumbing group then leased it to Philippine Packing Corp., otherwise known as "Del Monte." When the lease expired about 15 years ago, the group then got the CARP exemption by converting it into agro-industrial use.

The Supreme Court noted that the supposed "farmers" were not even tenants of a the property, and that their access only was to the property in the pineapple plantation of Del Monte when the property was leased to the company.

Eligible beneficiaries under the land reform program, according to the court ruling, are "tenants" and "farmers" and "regular farmworkers" of the landowner.

Now, according to reports, some of the leaders of the march from Bohol are to Malacañang are beneficiaries of CARP based on records of the Department of Agrarian Reform.

Hmmm! So you think that they still want more?

* * *

CLT Realty Development Corp. (CLT) sees the following statement on the Mayon estate issue that pits the company against Monterrey Realty Inc. and Asiavest Institute of Agriculture. The issue is with the Supreme Court because of the motion of Monterrey and Asiavest to reverse the court's earlier decision favoring CLT.

"While CLT Realty submitted been publishing or causing to be published in media the circumstances pertaining to the pending case and turned issued flyers in its faith of having its case decided on the merits at all levels and patiently waited for the wheels of justice to take their course, it is forced to break its silence to defend its position on the issue.

"The fact is that the decision of the SC in November 2005 in favor of CLT Realty is merely an affirmation of three separate decisions of the Court of Appeals which in turn affirmed three separate decisions of the trial courts rendered after trial on the merits during which both parties were given equal opportunity to present their evidence before the trial courts. The campaign of Monterrey and Asiavest subverts the entire 20-year legal process that has taken place where the latest title to lifestyle of the two petitioners were voided by the decisions of the SC, Court of Appeals and trial courts. Trying the cases all over again by asking the Supreme Court to overturn the findings of facts in the lower courts for another full-blown trial is unjust.

"A remand proposition to injustice since it will result in a re-litigation of issues already settled through long protracted trials in all courts, which litigation spanned a period of more than two decades. It is cruel in legally-engaging in such a way the parties presented all their evidence before the trial courts already, after which the trial courts concluded that the titles of Monterrey and Asiavest are void. A re-trial sets a very dangerous precedent 2041 every losing litigant going to the Supreme Court asking that its case be tried again and again until it gets a favorable ruling. Litigation, wherein it already presented its evidence in full.

"CLT also wants to clarify the following points:

"The subject matter of the three pending cases is not 300 hectares. The Asiavest Case is only one-three 50 hectares, the Monterrey-CLT Realty case involves 200 hectares and the Sto. Niño-CLT Realty case involves three hectares. The total area of CLT Realty's property is only 80 hectares.

"CLT Realty is not claiming the North Luzon Expressway (NLEx). It is only claiming the portion where the boundary as approved by the Public Regulatory Board for the expansion of the NLEx's toll booths which involves an area of less than three (3) hectares.

"No government land is involved in these cases. The intervention of the Republic of the Philippines is premised on its alleged interest to protect the Torrens System. In fact, the intervention of the Republic was opposed precisely on the ground that only private lands are involved and that it has no cause of action or prayer for reversion of the lands to the State.

"The alleged fabrication of Director's title is based on a report of the Land Registration Authority (LRA) which has already been struck down by the Supreme Court in Heirs of Luis Gonzaga vs. Court of Appeals, 301 SCRA 527.

"In the Gonzaga case, the Supreme Court declared the report inherently inadmissible and incompetent hence, cannot be given weight or evidence. The Supreme Court also stressed therein that said report suffers from congenital infirmity as it could not have possibly overruled the final decisions of the various branches of the three Courts of First Instances of Rizal."

Nido data gathering in Palawan delayed due to bad weather

By Abigail L. Ho

THE PERSISTENCE OF BAD WEATHER in Palawan has prompted Australia-based Nido Petroleum Ltd. to suspend for a few days its acquisition of seismic data for two service contract areas.

In a disclosure to the Australian Stock Exchange, Nido managing director David Wheatley said the acquisition of seismic data on Service Contracts 58 and 63 would resume when the weather clears.

The company, however, was still on track to completing its seismic campaign, the largest in its history, by end-January he said.

For SC 58, Nido is using the MV Pacific Titan to collect a total of 3,000 kilometers of 2D and 2,370 kilometers of 2D seismic over the Southwest Palawan contract area.

As of Nov. 19, the survey was already 25 percent complete and would be finished by mid-January 2008, subject to the weather conditions, Wheatley said.

The survey started on Nov. 1.

The survey in SC 63, which PNOC Exploration Corp. operates and in which Nido has a stake, would likely be completed by the end of this month.

As of Nov. 15, the survey was 65 percent complete.

The first part of Nido's massive seismic campaign, the one on SC 14, was completed on Oct. 30. Processing of the 1,65 square kilometers of new 3D seismic data was currently being processed by CGGVeritas in Singapore, Wheatley said.

"The 2007 seismic program is underway, with SC 14 and SC 58 focused on delivering a drilling portfolio through 3D acquisition over five high-graded areas. In SC 63, the objective is to accelerate the 2D seismic program in order to bring this large contract area to a similar maturity as SC 14 and SC 58 as quickly as possible," Nido head of exploration Ian Patrillo had earlier said.

"On completion of our 2007 program and within the space of about 12 months, Nido will have covered the majority of its exploration acreage with an extensive grid of high quality 3D and 2D seismic data on which to build the company's prospect and lead portfolio," he added.

Shares up 1.2%

There were 60 advancers and 23 decliners, while 58 stocks were steady.

A total of 1.7 billion shares worth P1.6 billion changed hands.

"If some foreign investors are back and nibbling at discounted share prices," said Severo Aguila of FA Market Securities, "The market may remain its downtrend but, given a strong domestic economy, any weakness in prices presents a buying opportunity."

Following the composite index's 2.9 percent drop last week, valuations have become more attractive.

But there were hints of profit-taking Monday, indicating that investors are still treading cautiously.

"By now, everyone is tired of hearing about the subprime woes, the credit crisis, and the apparent weakness of the US economy," said Prince Yeung of AB Capital Securities.

"However, the sad reality is that these issues will persist," he added.

ST. MARY'S ACADEMY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
INCORPORATED UNDER THE NAME ST. MARY'S ACADEMY - PASAY

"Bahid Mana, Bahid Saya"

2007 GRAND ALUMNI HOMECOMING
AND 85TH FOUNDATION ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF
ST. MARY'S ACADEMY - PASAY

DECEMBER 8, 2007 / 5:00 PM
ST. MARY'S ACADEMY CAMPUS, P. BURGOS ST., PASAY CITY

We, graduates, batchmates and high school graduates from 1946-2007 are invited to this big event. Come home and reminisce the good old times!

Dinner tickets are now available. Booths for rent. For more details please call
Ms. Bernie Tongatan at 831-4445, 831-4488 or 551-4483

Special thanks to our media partners:
Inquirer GMA

In '08 peso ...

From page B1

tin on the government's revenue flows consist of large privatization initiatives.

Nevertheless, the private forecasts on the fiscal front is seen to support the country's growth momentum.

"The 2007 economic numbers corroborate the picture of robust economic expansion," Ravelas said.

Given the unprecedented global economic slowdown next year, Ravelas says the country's GDP growth is subject to 6 to 6.5 percent, but still better than the historical average over the years.

In the past few years, the country's growth was locked within a 5 to 6 percent range. But the country's GDP grew to 7.3 percent in the first half of 2007—its strongest performance in 20 years.

GDP, the most important indicator of economic output, refers to the total amount of goods and services produced by the economy in a given period.

From the Ivatans of Batanes
to the Tawi-tawians of Tawi-tawi
Unites the Filipino

JRS EXPRESS

Serving the Filipino since 1960
www.jrs-express.com

TRADE IN
YOUR OLD
(working or non working)
TIME RECORDER DEVICE

TO A BRAND NEW FINGERPRINT
TIME RECORDER SYSTEM

HARDWARE
&
SOFTWARE
included

WE ACCEPT ALL TYPES OF TIME RECORDER DEVICE FOR TRADE-IN:
- Mechanical Bundy Clock
- Electronic Bundy Clock
- Magnetic Stripe Card Reader
- Proximity Card Reader
- Other Brand Fingerprint Reader
- Some Brand Old Model Fingerprint Reader

exclusively distributed by: MARBEL ALTECHNO

367-0186, 360-0486, 362-7313, 364-4069
366-8388, 367-2844, 364-6871, 487-0606
www.myquicktime.com.ph

PSBank
US Dollar
TIME DEPOSIT

	$1,000 to 9,999	$10,000 to 49,999	$50,000 to 99,999	$100,000 and up
1 month	3.50%	3.50%	3.63%	3.75%
2 months	3.50%	3.63%	3.75%	3.88%
3 months	3.63%	3.75%	3.75%	3.88%
6 months	3.75%	3.88%	3.88%	4.00%
12 months	3.88%	4.00%	4.13%	4.25%

Manage your account online via Philippi Remote Banking.
Open a time deposit now in any of 143 branches nationwide.

Have #0 debt, Be an Inquirer.
INQUIRER

TOYOTA GREAT
UPGREATS!
2
Buy a Toyota now and get a chance to bring home not 1 but 2 great cars!

2.4 G A/T

Get a chance to
win a CAMRY
when you buy an
ALTIS

LOW DOWN PAYMENT P72,300**
LOW MONTHLY P6,579***

Also, get a chance to win
an ALTIS 1.6 G A/T when you buy a YARIS
an INNOVA 2.0 G Gas A/T when you buy an AVANZA
a FORTUNER 4x2 2.7 L when you buy an INNOVA

Get up to ₱50,000 TOYOTA SAVINGS PLUS
for the Yaris A/T & M/T, Altis, Avanza 1.3 G A/T & M/T, Innova E Gas A/T & M/T, and P30,000 for all other Innova variants.

or 0% INTEREST
on our great financing packages

TOYOTA 500 THOUSAND

Promo Period is from November 7 - 30, 2007.
Grand Draw is on December 12, 2007.

TOYOTA FINANCIAL SERVICES

TOYOTA
moving forward

Slowdown or recession?

I HAVE BEEN THROUGH THE most painful three weeks of my life. I awoke at 2 a.m. one night with an intense stabbing pain in my left side and another in the region of my left leg. I had to call the doctor for painkillers and I have been taking them ever since, which is not good. Blood tests revealed nothing so I went to physiotherapy three times a week but with no significant beneficial results so far. I still cannot raise my left leg, get out of bed unaided or put my socks on. I can only walk slowly and with considerable difficulty.

Last Friday the doctor took me to the hospital for an MRI scan and the results have been forwarded to a specialist. It is impossible to believe that such a thing can happen out of the blue. This totally happens only to old people. If the scan is bad, the surgeon intends to perform the world's first "spinalectomy" removing my spinal column and replacing it with my football column. What affected here I might suffer, the surgeon cannot explain. If I am not in work, I will have to declare myself sick.

I am an advertisement ever and ever again about a car, which hugs the road at incredible speed even when taking sharp curves on that you had one with the car. I talked me and bought a fellow under C class and I set off on the CL. I drove at 300 kph and took a curve at that speed. Unfortunately, I lost control of the car and hit a tree. I was saved by the air bag and my seat belt but I discovered something. The Mercedes bends.

In answer to several queries, Fred Goss is not the son of Justin Goss. He is merely a subordinate cleric.

When a baby is born, it is immediately immediately the doctor slaps its bottom to make it breathe. When my brother was born, he was so ugly that the doctor slapped my mother.

* * *

Last Thursday, President Bush sent Iraq another 50 tanks on the road to non-closed for Thanksgiving. On Friday, it rolled on low volume because the market was open only half day. The bad news continues and Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae, the government-sponsored enterprises that help provide financing to the mortgage market, both announced big losses and their shares fell by up to 16 percent. Freddie Mac might have to cut its dividend due to concerns about its capital. Initially, it was thought that subprime mortgages might reach $100 billion, now the consensus is $200-$300 billion spread over two years.

House prices are still falling, together with demand, in the first nights two towns and reckons the availability of sub-prime and jumbo mortgages. The United States is passing through the worst housing recession in 16 years and the chief economist at Moody's said, "The economy is on the brink of a recession." Her sympathy shares has gone but the luxury market is betting 92 percent on a quarter point cut and 8 percent on a half-point cut. It is known that favourite does not want to cut rates in December especially with the oil price now close to $100 a barrel, which is inflationary. More consumers fear for increased future about inflation in 2002 and consumer confidence. He certainly has to make a difficult decision next month.

The Fed decided to provide the public with more information including the individual views of the members of the Fed and also a three-year growth forecast but he still cut several by inflation target. For next year, he has reduced the range from 2.5- 2.75 percent to 1.8- 2.5 percent, about 2.5 percent is also forecast for 2002 and 2003. Most analysts are seeing on the low end of 1.6 percent and forecasting narrowly that the fourth quarter will contain a kitchen and bathroom and Orbis have been threatening to subdivision all their trillions of dollars investment in treasury bills and invest elsewhere. But where would they invest it?

The euro is at a record high and even with the pound, they could not possibly absorb all the foreign money. I think it is a big bluff. Actually, the weak dollar stimulates exports and last month's trade deficit with China was reduced because of booming exports. I believe that the US will cut interest rates next year and continue to pressure the weak dollar.

All stocks markets follow Wall Street, and Hong Kong has been going up and down over 3000 points a day with all markets highly volatile. In an attempt to show growth at 11.5 percent a year, China has increased the bank's reserve deposit 9 times this year and raised interest rates 5 times. So far, this has backed no effect but this year is being allowed to appreciate slowly. China wants to move cautiously because aggressive measures could cause a loss of confidence among the hundreds of millions of local investors and this might cause a collapse not only of the CSI 300 index but the stockmarket of Asia and the commodity market. Nobody wants this to happen so nobody is complaining about China moving cautiously.

The Peso has been declining steadily. It has broken the 50-day moving average and is only marginally above the 200-day moving average, which traders and analysts consider important. Leaders of the 10 luncheon Asian nations agreed to eliminate trade barriers by goods and services in an attempt to create a European Union-modeled economic community by 2015. This excludes China and India as they are so dominating in the bet but it would still have a population of 370 million and a GDP of $1 trillion.

PCEN and an unprecedentable technistic company was the PSOC. EDC stake with a bit much higher than its competitors. SMC did in a year low and DMCI has been on free fall since 1988. 50 to 958.50 in only five weeks. T opened and closed at P58, roughly its IPO price. Splash dropped from PV to P7.40 in only seven days but the fall seems overdone, as the P/E is only 11, low for a growth stock. Foreign brokers continued to sell an average of P560 million a day of our stocks every day but sold P860 million on Thursday and Friday. Record remittances are holding up the peso. Yesterday, there were small net buyers.

I just received the dealer's report on the MRI. There is no abnormality of the spine and it is not impinging on any nerve. Basically, it is a matter of old age and excessive use. I have to reduce this to twice a day and avoid complicated positions involving swinging from the chandelier.

Ayala raises P6B through 5-year peso bond float

Demand strong despite tight pricing, says exec

By Elizabeth S. Lacson

AYALA CORP. HAS RAISED P6 billion from a recently concluded five-year peso bond float. The amount is P1 billion more than the offer size of P5 billion.

Ayala got the Securities and Exchange Commission's approval for the issuance of P5 billion worth of fixed rate bonds, with an option to increase the size to P6 billion.

"The company decided to upsize the offering by P1 billion, which was less than its maximum approved size, in view of the tight pricing that it enjoyed on similar instruments with the only Ayala Corp. has been positioning its deals in the market," Ayala managing director and treasurer Bernie Ongkeksiong said in a telephone interview.

"Demand for the bonds was strong and this was to spite of the very tight pricing that we adopted for the issue," Ongkeksiong said.

The five-year bonds were priced at a coupon rate of 6.825 percent, which was lower than its original target of 7.5 percent.

Ayala tapped the following to underwrite the offer: BPI Capital Corp., BDO Capital & Investment Corp., First Metro Investment Corp., ING Bank NV, Land Bank of the Philippines and Standard Chartered Bank.

Over the years, Ayala has shifted its debt mix to 61 per cent in pesos and 39 percent in US dollars, from 53 percent in pesos and 90 percent to 210 dollars in the past.

Del Monte Pacific buys S&W brand

DEL MONTE PACIFIC LTD., THE GROUP that owns the Del Monte fruit brand in the Philippines, said it had acquired American processed fruits and vegetables brand S&W from New York-based Del Monte Foods for $30 million.

Del Monte Pacific and its subsidiaries are not affiliates of Del Monte Corp. and its parent, Del Monte Foods.

In a statement sent to the Singapore stock exchange, Del Monte Pacific said it had acquired the S&W brand in all of its markets, except Brazil and South America, Australia and New Zealand.

S&W's main market for canned fruits and vegetables is the United States but it is also strong in Japan, Hong Kong, Thailand and Singapore.

Del Monte Pacific also said it was acquiring S&W inventories and distribution rights.

As part of the deal, Del Monte Pacific will grant Del Monte Foods a "perpetual royalty-free license"—which will allow a company to use the brand—for S&W canned fruits and vegetables, and certain specific bottled products for the Western European markets.

The S&W brand originated in the United States in 1888 as a producer of premium quality processed fruits and vegetables. It was founded in 1895 by three schoolmates from San Francisco—Samuel Seaman, Gustav Wetmore and Samuel Wetmore.

Del Monte Pacific, on the other hand, is 60-percent held by Seamless Pacific Ltd. (SPL), owned by the Campos-controlled Sumitomo Group of Companies.

The Sumitomo Group is the market leader in the liquid condiments sector. Its flagship brand, UFC, holds an 85-percent share in the local ketchup and hot chili sauce market. Elizabeth Sanchez-Cuenco

Currencies

December 26, 2001 Monday	Unit	Peso Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Euro Equivalent
United States	Dollar	51.2500	1.000000	0.8900
Japan	Yen	0.403150	0.007863	0.0070
United Kingdom	Pound	1.00000	1.96100	1.7458
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.656400	0.128080	0.1141
Switzerland	Franc	0.373500	0.728700	0.6490
Canada	Dollar	0.581500	1.134200	1.0100
Singapore	Dollar	0.287100	0.560000	0.4988
Australia	Dollar	0.463500	0.904200	0.8053
Bahrain	Dinar	1.75000	3.414000	3.0408
Saudi Arabia	Riyal	13.7000	0.266000	0.2370
Brunei	Dollar	0.503100	0.981500	0.8743
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.00500	0.009800	0.0087
Thailand	Baht	0.0000	0.000000	0.0000
UAE	Dirham	13.9500	0.272000	0.2423
EU	Euro	1.00000	1.951000	1.7370
Korea	Won	0.0000	0.000000	0.0000
China	Yuan	0.00000	0.000000	0.0000
Taiwan	Dollar	0.00000	0.000000	0.0000
India	Rupee	0.00000	0.000000	0.0000
Kuwait	Dinar	0.00000	0.000000	0.0000
New Zealand	Dollar	0.00000	0.000000	0.0000
Qatar	Riyal	0.00000	0.000000	0.0000
Vietnam	Dong	0.00000	0.000000	0.0000

Source: Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (Reference Rates)
* Revised rate to reflect re-quoted currencies effective January 2, 2001
** Based on the closing rate of May 31, 2001

Asia shares rebound on US retail hopes; yen up

JAPANESE businessmen pass by a digital screen flashing Tokyo share prices. Japan's Nikkei 225 average rose 393.83 points, or 2.66 percent, to 15,202.26 points as traders took their cues from Wall St. –

Positive mood on Wall St. spreads to key regional markets

SINGAPORE—ASIAN STOCKS JUMPED 2 percent on Monday, rebounding from four straight weeks of losses on hopes for strong US retail sales, while a report China is looking to buy Tokyo stocks supported the Nikkei and the yen.

Crude oil fell over to near a record high with its striking distance of $100 a barrel, buoyed by a persistently weak dollar and forecasts of colder US weather, while strong equity markets weighed on safe-haven government bonds. Gold hit a two-week peak.

Hopes for a stronger start to the US holiday season boosted Wall Street on Friday with the positive mood flowing to Asia.

Early yesterday afternoon, Tokyo's Nikkei average climbed 2.6 percent, while MSCI's measure of other Asia Pacific stocks put on 3.6 percent, recovering from last week's 4.3 percent drop—its fourth straight weekly decline.

Last Friday, also known as Black Friday marked the first official day of the shopping season for the United States, where more than 147 million shoppers flocked to stores over the Thanksgiving holiday.

Most, however, seem to discount sheers and spending was down, according to a survey.

"Higher sales on Black Friday confirmed US consumer spending is relatively resilient, helping fanch Barron shares, which fell more than other Asian markets, outperform," said Jason Hwang, a strategist at Waer Investment and Securities.

Black Friday store number the day many retailers turned a profit, or went into the black, for the year.

South Korea's Kospi jumped 4.4 percent, while Hong Kong shares added 4 percent.

The MSCI index, which still up 32 percent this year, has fallen more than 18 percent from the Nov. 1 peak, on growing worries that a deep US housing slump and credit losses may outweigh any support US banks could lent the region's top export destination.

Investors bought major exporters on hopes that US consumers will remain resilient, sending Canon Inc. up 3.5 percent and Sony Corp. 5 percent higher.

Major losers were also observed after the recent selloff, with BHP Billiton climbing 5.3 percent and takeover target the Rio in up 6.2 percent.

Both benefited from a report in a Chinese newspaper that China's sovereign wealth fund was considering bidding with the company's major stakeholders to sell, for about $200 billion for Rio. The fund, China Investment Corp., denied the report.

A separate report in Japan's Nikkei newspaper said the $200 billion fund was expected to invest some of its assets to Japanese stocks, lending support to brokerdown Tokyo stocks and lifting the yen more than one percent.

The yen erased earlier losses on the report, with the dollar sliding to $108.21 yen from near 108.70 yen. The dollar hit a two-and-a-half year low of 107.55 yen on Friday.

The euro fell to 160.45 yen from a record peak of 161.45 yen.

The dollar remained under pressure but had cleared off its record low versus the euro.

Investors remain on edge about more fallout from the credit crunch as year-end approaches and potentially forces investors to dump assets or scramble for cash to get their books in order as banks and funds grapple with the market strains.

"There's definitely a lot of negative sentiment around about the subprime issue, so it's hard to say the dollar is out of the woods at this stage," said Rob Lloyd, head of G10 currency trading at MF Amro in Singapore.

Fixture stocks weighed on government bonds, with UK 10-year Treasury yields falling 10/32 in price to yield 4.698 percent. –Reuters

DA, FAO ink deal to help Bicol farmers

By Amy S. Barros

THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE has inked an agreement with the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization on a post-Ang project aimed at reviving the livelihood of some 6,000 Typhoon-hit marginal farmers in Bicol.

Entitled "Restoring Food Security in Typhoon-Affected Areas in the Bicol Region through the Provision of Agricultural Inputs and Technical Assistance," the P35.million ($760,000 or just project will be funded by the Spanish International Cooperation Agency.

The FAO project intends to restore and strengthen the food security of rural typhoon-affected farmers through the provision of agricultural inputs and technical assistance," said Agriculture Secretary Arthur C. Yap.

According to the DA, the project's priorities are the most affected coconut and abaca areas in the provinces of Albay, Camarines Sur, Catanduanes and Sorsogon.

Yap said the selection of the target sites for the project was based on the findings and recommendations of a joint DA-FAO mission, which assessed the agricultural damage wrought by the super typhoons that hit Bicol last year.

The mission reported that 218,970 hectares and 29,700 hectares of coconut and abaca plantations, respectively, in Bicol were heavily damaged last year.

He said the project would help restore the food security and livelihood of more than 6,000 farmers and their families by among others, training them on improved crop production and crop diversification.

The project will also provide rubber coagulating building activities to cottagers farmers' coping mechanisms in dealing with calamities.

He said this new initiative complement its ongoing down-zone Foreign-assisted project of the DA-co strengthening the agro-industrial sector in Bicol and the Caraga region, which is also being funded by the Spanish government through a 6 million euro grant.

DOF asks gov't to go easy on granting perks

By Michelle V. Ramos

THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE HAS again called on Congress to streamline fiscal incentives, noting that the government is losing billions of pesos a year due to the giving out of "redundant" perks.

"We underscore that it is also because of (wasteful) resources from redundant tax incentives that governments has been financially ill-equipped to address poor infrastructure and a substandard educational system," the DOF said in a position paper submitted to Congress.

The DOF cited a study showing that the government lost P62.5 billion in potential revenues in 2004 alone due to the granting of "redundant" incentives.

According to DOF's definition, incentives become redundant when the recipient firm would have invested in the country anyway even without the tax and duty-free perks.

The study authored by UP economists professor Renato Bantik said that 95 percent of the incentives granted by the Board of Investments, 80 percent of those given by the Philippine Economic Zone Authority, 17.8 percent of perks granted by Subic Bay Metropolitan authority and 36.3 percent of those granted by the Clark economic zone were "redundant."

The DOF also claimed that incentives were not a major factor behind investors' decision to place their money in the Philippines.

The study showed that access to customers, political stability, ease of doing business, reliable infrastructure, labor cost and skilled labor were some of the major factors affecting decisions to invest in a country, not fiscal perks.

The DOF thus proposed that item granting perks be consolidated into one, and that incentives be granted only to priority exporters and businesses located in the poorer provinces.

Smart puts up more cell sites in time for holidays

By Rica T. Olchondra

ANTICIPATING HIGH NETWORK TRAFFIC during the Christmas season, leading wireless services provider Smart Communications Inc. is putting up 200 more cell sites nationwide by the end of the year.

Smart has so far put up 200 new cell sites this year.

When completed, the expansion project covering 2,500 cell sites will bring the total number of Smart's GSM cell sites and base stations to about 6,700, covering 99 percent of the country.

Aside from increasing the network's coverage area, the additional cell sites will strengthen the mobile phone reception of the 20.6 million Smart subscribers.

Smart network services division head Rolando G. Peña said the expansion would benefit subscribers in the provinces closer to fifth-class municipalities, congested and densely populated areas and economic growth areas.

The Smart network includes the Talk 'N Text brand of subsidiary Pilipino Telephone Corp. (Piltel) and roaming partners overseas.

The PLDT group has set aside P18 billion in capital expenditures for Smart.

That makes up 40 percent of the telecommunications giant's upgraded capital expenditures of P25 billion for the year.

This comes for the first half reached 39.8 billion. We expect it to rise to P25-billion for the whole year from our earlier estimate of P22 billion, mainly due to better-than-expected cellular and wireless broadband take-up," PLDT president Napoleon Nazareno had said.

TLV PRODUCTS
WITH FLUID CONTROL ENGINEERING
+ ENERGY CONSERVING
+ PRODUCTION IMPROVING
A.R.MYRING
SINCE 1946 – MANUAL, SOLENOID, PNEUMATIC VALVES – STAINLESS STEEL FITTINGS

Small borrowers in limbo ...

From page B1

According to Gaon, SHBFC made sure that only its "high-risk/spent" accounts were sold to BTS, precisely because it wanted to keep its strong-making current loans for its own portfolio.

BTS Marcelino's contention that his loan payments were up to date—payments were not automatically deducted salary deductions—have suggested that the bank could in with the employers, which might have failed to remit collections to the SHBFC.

Another former employee, however, denied this, saying the company faithfully remits loan payments to all government agencies, often several days ahead of deadline.

"We have all the receipts from them to prove it," said Shelly Carvajal, who shares Marcelino's situation, having received a demand letter from BTS after her ayes-date missing loan was sold by the government.

"What's surprising is that there are Bicol's in this company with current home loans, but only those were transferred to BTS," she said.

In an e-mailed reply to the Inquirer, BTS conceded that the housing loans in question may have been erroneously transferred from the state agency.

"Considering that Mr. Marcelino's account is current, it is possible that it was inadvertently included by SHBFC in the sale to Rafikatan,"

Q3 GDP growth seen at 6.1-7.1%

From page B1

maximum of 7.1 percent during the period.

On the other hand, Asiatic said, rising prices of oil in the world market could temper the economy's growth to a minimum of 6.1 percent.

The Neda official said the agriculture, forestry and fisheries sector likely grew to 5 to 5.8 percent, industry 6.1 to 7.1 percent, and services, 6.5 to 7.3 percent.

Should the third-quarter forecast be correct, Santos said, then the economy was well on its way to hitting a full-year GDP growth of 7 percent. This is higher than the government's official economic growth target of between 6.1 and 6.7 percent for 2007.

"The fourth quarter is normally higher than the third quarter because of higher consumer spending," Santos said.

Stoking more expectations, the economy grew 7.3 percent in the first quarter and 7.3 percent in the second quarter. The second quarter growth was the fastest in two decades.

Government economic managers credited the robust growth to the increase in foreign investments and dollar remittances, as well as higher government spending. With a report from Doris C. Dumlao, Reuters

LIFESTYLE

STAINLESS medicine cabinets from Manuel's kitchen and bath section

SM HOMINVOLVE sets of drawers for first-aid kit

Mind your medicine cabinet

A cool, dark and dry place, preferably out of a child's reach, is best for storing first-aid supplies

Text by Rowena C. Burgos
Photos by Jim Baker Pamaran

CONTRARY TO TRADITION, A bathroom cabinet is not good for keeping over-the-counter or non-prescription or prescription medications. Health experts say that heat and humidity from showers and kitchens cause both prescription and over-the-counter drugs to break down quickly and lose their potency.

A cool, dark and dry place, preferably out of a child's reach, is best for storing medicines, says Dr. Alana Sienkiuk, a company doctor.

"Mostly, medicine cabinets should be placed in the bathroom. Avoid direct sunlight for this will affect the medicine's potency," adds Peter Paul Lozano, a company nurse.

Professional organizer Kathleen Ong agrees with Sienkiuk and Lozano.

"Consider room temperature. You don't want to put a medicine cabinet near a stove as the heat can affect medicines," she says. "If one's house is too big, put two medicine cabinets to accessible locations. Don't place them where you need to go through heat."

Ong also suggests to regularly clean out your medicine cabinet and the area where you store medicines. Discard outdated products, damaged containers or anything leaking. Rework supplies that are low or running. Keep all items in their original containers so that no one takes the wrong one.

"Taking these measures can help you treat minor emergencies promptly and effectively," Ong says.

First-aid kit

When it comes to your health and the health of your family it is vital always to be prepared for the unexpected. Quick responses to medical emergencies can save lives. A well-stocked medicine cabinet should contain items that can help you get on the road to recovery, Lozano says.

For the first aid kit, Lozano recommends the following: alcohol for cleaning wounds; an antiseptic like Betadine; rectangular bandages (or hand-cuts) for simple cuts or abrasions; butterfly bandages and transverse adhesive strips to hold the edges of a cut together and allow it to heal; individually wrapped, sterile gauze pads to control bleeding or secretions and prevent contamination; a roll of absorbent cotton to padding for sculpted, elastic bandage to help decrease bleeding or swelling, or keel support in joints or sprained muscles; scissors and tweezers for cutting bandages and removing splinters; cotton-tipped swabs; thermometer (oral, rectal or for the ear); petroleum jelly or one with a mixed ointment; antiseptic ointment, spray or

(TURN TO)

WOODEN medicine cabinet from Ace Hardware

SCOPPY first-aid cabinet from Ace Hardware

CABINET from Ace Hardware for first-aid essentials

PILL case from SM Hypermarket

Mind your medicine cabinet

Turn page 4

MEDICard. The Healthcare I Deserve!

What are the common skin diseases in the Philippines?

Take Charge Doc!

Journal of trying to organize medicines packed with bottles and tubes, just sort over. Pets, grab a trash can and throw away expired items. Then head to the pharmacy and buy those most items that were virtually all your home-medicine needs.

If you're in pain, you won't go wrong with the old favorites acetaminophen and ibuprofen.

"Follow all package instructions; if the pain persists, see a doctor," Natividad says. "Because of its anti-inflammatory action, ibuprofen is perfect for overworked muscles, joints and tendons. Always take it on a full stomach to ward off irritation and intestinal bleeding."

A good night's sleep can work wonders when you have a cold, so keep a product that combines a sedating decongestant with an antihistamine (which can also help lower a fever).

"Products affect people differently; try to find one that makes you feel sleepy but not jittery," Natividad says.

She adds that many people get by fine with a daytime "nondrowsy" cold formula, which may not dry up your runny nose as well but will keep you from working or driving under the influence.

In treating coughs, buy the DM formula, which packs the dynamic duo of cure-them drugs: guaifenesin to loosen phlegm and dextromethorphan to suppress coughs. Most other medicines contain only one or the other, Natividad says.

Natividad also suggests antihistamines for allergic skin reactions and itching; stomach remedies to counteract nausea, heavy feeling and upset stomach; and anti-diarrheal products.

"Medications for kids and adults should be placed in separate containers because some pills for grownups harm the same packaging in shape and color as children's vitamins," Lozano adds.

When selecting over-the-counter medicines, Lozano says to make sure all unique-resistant features are intact.

"When taking medicine, always remember to check the proper dosage, especially for children. Read the label every time. Pay special attention to directions and warnings. If you have questions about your medicine, talk to your doctor, pharmacist, or other health-care professional."

Proudly presented by

World Of Feng Shui

and

INQUIRER

In partnership with

WOLFPAC

SHANGRI

Learn valuable feng shui tips and win prizes

Double Your Luck!

"THESS ALLEN 2 FENG SHUI WAYS TO WIN"

FENG SHUI TRIVIA

Now it's back!

PHILIPPINES 2008 FENG SHUI UPDATES

Year of The Earth Rat

Saturday, 19th Jan 2008

REGISTER NOW!

Eat healthy this season

THE SPECIAL HOLIDAY ISSUE OF Healthy Options Lifestyle News Digest dwells on a favorite topic of Filipinos—food.

It also carries a reminder for the merry-making public to avoid things that will be bad for their health, like drinking and driving.

In other stories, Healthy Options News Digest reports that the rules of healthy eating have changed.

Guided by scientific findings, are working up their pantry with foods, like fresh fruits, that can help prevent diseases, and avoiding those identified as potentially hazardous to their health.

The magazine offers a comprehensive guide on the most common and allergy-prone. Studies on specific disorders, what allergy triggers to avoid are also discussed, among others.

The news digest tries to give readers a better understanding of the components of food and how they influence health and diseases.

The articles include "Molecules and Emotions," "Stressed Diet," "Gluten-Free Diet," "Peanut Allergy: The Shocking Facts" and "Milk Allergy Also."

"The Health Benefits of Juicing" explains why drinking fresh fruit or vegetable juices is good.

In "Dietary Approaches to Treating Autism," claims about how vitamin and mineral supplements may improve the condition is discussed.

Also reminded is the Healthy Options Lifestyle News Digest Nov/Dec2007 issue is a photo special.

The Healthy Options Lifestyle News Digest is available free to customers. Visit www.healthyoptions.com.ph.

New slimming drink

HYDROTRIM, 45 omega-3 flaxseed slimming drink, boosts the body's metabolism through its hypocaloric formulation.

It contains hydroxitric acid (HCA), a natural extract of Garcinia Cambogia that had long been used in the East as a food supplement.

It has been found to help control obesity and get rid of unwanted pounds by increasing the body's fat-burning ability.

The all-natural, calorie-free, non-laxative HCA suppresses the appetite by making the brain think that the body is full.

As a result, a person reduces his/her craving for fatty carbohydrate-rich or sugary food—main contributors to weight gain.

Besides being a natural antioxidant (a substance that combats disease-causing free radicals), hydroxitrate, a fruity alternative to sugar-rich juices and carbonated soft drinks, also speeds up the body's metabolism, allowing it to release stubbly fatty deposits, especially in the so-called love handles, thighs and arms, and achieve trims.

But first-time users should refrain from what they eat and refrain from binging on sweets and fatty food, main sources of excess fat in the body.

With moderate exercise regimen and Hydroxitrin, a trim, slim and sexy figure can be achieved within a few months.

Hydroxitrin is available in Mercury Drug and other leading drugstores nationwide. Call 8941111 or e-mail hydroxitrin.ph@drugstores.com.ph.

INNER AWARENESS
Jaime Licauco

Is Mariang Makiling myth or fact?

ALFREDO GALICIO JR., A young doctor from Iloilo City and a former student of this columnist, sent several questions that might be of interest to other readers as well.

He said, since childhood, he had been interested in paranormal phenomena and even tried to discover them on his own.

Here are Dr. Galicio's questions and my replies:

1. Is Mariang Makiling true? Have you ever encountered her? What is her nature?

According to Philippine folk beliefs, there are three levels of nature's beings, all named Maria. Being in sacred mountains. They are Mariang Makiling in Mt. Makiling, Mariang Sinukuan in Mt. Arayat and Mariang Banahaw in Mt. Banahaw.

They are considered mythical and legendary creatures that do not have real existence.

However, some superior and mediums in Mt. Banahaw told me the three Marias were real and had appeared to those they wanted to see them.

I do not know personally if these three are true or not. But I do not doubt the existence of such mythical beings in fables or dreams. They are part of the elemental kingdom or nature spirits.

2. If the Mayan Calendar's prediction is true (that the present Earth cycle will end at midnight of Dec. 11, 2012), what can we do to prepare (materially, mentally or psychically) for that event?

There is actually not much time for humankind to prepare, is there? That is only five short years from now. There is really nothing we can do about the changes that will occur.

But we can prepare ourselves by raising our consciousness or developing our sensitivity to psychic and spiritual forces. Accessing to information from some benign sources, those who have raised their levels of awareness or clairvoyance will know what to do and where to go before the cycle ends, which is always preceded by natural calamities and disasters.

It is only very recently that more people on Earth are beginning to be aware of and doing something about the world's environmental and ecological problems. For so long, warning signs were ignored by almost all governments.

Each of us must do our part to help reduce the pollution that is caused. We cannot rely on any outside agency to do this for us.

3. How you heard about hoarse? Is that effective? Do what way?

Yes, I have heard about it and I even have two tapes of hoarse-type, as far as I know, Chinese developed by the late American engineer Robert Monroe of the Monroe Institute.

Hemi-sync is short for hemispheric synchronization. It involves the use of sound/audio signals aimed at synchronizing the brain waves of the left and right hemispheres of our nervous system to achieve quickly the alpha or theta state.

Its effectiveness depends on individual receptivity and inclination. For some it is effective. They report the alpha state by listening to it using an earphone. Separate but synchronized sounds are heard in each ear in one device.

However, one can also reach the alpha state easily even without such a device by simply practicing the meditative technique I recently discussed.

4. During my internship, I wondered why I got glycosuria (and others) when on duty at the pediatric ward than at the medical ward. Are there more negative energies at the pediatric ward?

Perhaps in the hospital where you did your internship, yes, but not cannot generalize. Some people are just sensitive to energies and others are not. But most sick at the pediatric ward to tell whether running your negative emotion.

In any big hospital, I read that there were mental wards more patients died than at other rooms or wards. Hospital administrators should be concerned if they notice such a pattern.

Note: For inquiries on Inner Mind Development, ESP and Psychic Development and Seminars, Klarna and Remarkable seminars by this writer, call 4107245 or 4924809, fax 4159890 or e-mail innerawareness_2005@yahoo.com.ph. Visit also our website www.jaimelicauco.com.

Your Doctor Knows Best

Nemencio A. Nicodemus Jr., MD, FPCP, DPSEM

Question:

I have been gaining weight even since I reached age 30. I guess it's because I'm doing more computer work in the office with less exercise. Lately, I have been having nape pains and occasional chest pains. Is it possible that I am developing heart disease?

Doctor Says...

When someone gains fat and, consequently, gets heavier, it is not just the weight that is gained but every important body unit/system ends, of developing other unfavorable conditions. It was previously thought that having obese was just an aesthetic problem, which only causes undesirable external appearances. Now, more accurate studies show that obesity occurs together with other diseases including elevated blood sugar, high blood pressure and abnormal cholesterol levels.

The clustering of these conditions within the same individual has been called by several names in the past, such as "Syndrome X", "Deadly Quartet" and "Insulin Resistance Syndrome". But the latest term that has been used to call this group of diseases is "Metabolic Syndrome". The word "syndrome" refers to a group of symptoms that collectively indicate or characterize a disease. In the case of metabolic syndrome, it refers to a group of disease conditions that increases the risk of developing diabetes and heart disease.

The most feature of metabolic syndrome that is pre-requisite in making a diagnosis, according to the International Diabetes Federation, is excessive abdominal fatness also called central obesity. A person of South Asian descent is considered obese if the waist circumference exceeds 31.5 inches in women and 35 inches in men. Here, the waist is measured midway between the lowest ribs and the hips.

When these numbers are exceeded, one needs to possess any additional two of the following conditions to qualify as having metabolic syndrome: (1) elevated fasting blood sugar above 100 mg/dl or a diagnosis of diabetes, (2) elevated blood pressure above 130/85, (3) reduced levels of good cholesterol (HDL) less than 40 mg/dl in men and 50 mg/dl in women, (4 mg/dl levels of both fat and triglycerides above 150 mg/dl.

The best way to initially treat metabolic syndrome is via a structured program of lifestyle modification aimed at reducing weight by at least 5% within 6 months. This is achieved thru the incorporation of proper information, reduced caloric intake with a concomitant reduction in fat intake, and increased physical activity, with regular physician contact to one's routine.

Together with weight reduction, it is equally important to reduce blood sugar, lower the blood pressure and cholesterol levels in order to reduce one's chances of developing heart disease and diabetes. Needless to say, your doctor is the best position to address your health related concerns.

*Dr. Nicodemus is an American Board Certified Internal Medicine Physician and the President of The Philippine College of Physicians. He is a consultant to the Philippine Heart Center and the Philippine General Hospital. He is also a consultant to the Philippine Society of Diabetes and the Philippine Society of Hypertension. He is a Fellow of the American College of Physicians and a Diplomate of the American Board of Internal Medicine. He is also a Diplomate of the American Board of Diabetes. He is also a Diplomate of the American Board of Hypertension. He is also a Diplomate of the American Board of Endocrinology. He is also a Diplomate of the American Board of Metabolism. He is also a Diplomate of the American Board of Nutrition. He is also a Diplomate of the American Board of Obesity. He is also a Diplomate of the American Board of Sports Medicine. He is also a Diplomate of the American Board of Wellness. He is also a Diplomate of the American Board of Weight Management. He is also a Diplomate of the American Board of Women's Health. He is also a Diplomate of the American Board of Women's Sports Medicine. He is also a Diplomate of the American Board of Women's Wellness. He is also a Diplomate of the American Board of Women's Weight Management. He is also a Diplomate of the American Board of Women's Women's Health. He is also a Diplomate of the American Board of Women's Women's Sports Medicine. He is also a Diplomate of the American Board of Women's Women's Wellness. He is also a Diplomate of the American Board of Women's Women's Weight Management. He is also a Diplomate of the American Board of Women's Women's Women's Health. He is also a Diplomate of the American Board of Women's Women's Women's Sports Medicine. He is also a Diplomate of the American Board of Women's Women's Women's Wellness. He is also a Diplomate of the American Board of Women's Women's Women's Weight Management. He is also a Diplomate of the American Board of Women's Women's Women's Women's Health. He is also a Diplomate of the American Board of Women's Women's Women's Women's Sports Medicine. He is also a Diplomate of the American Board of Women's Women's Women's Women's Wellness. He is also a Diplomate of the American Board of Women's Women's Women's Women's Weight Management. He is also a Diplomate of the American Board of Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Health. He is also a Diplomate of the American Board of Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Sports Medicine. He is also a Diplomate of the American Board of Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Wellness. He is also a Diplomate of the American Board of Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Weight Management. He is also a Diplomate of the American Board of Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Health. He is also a Diplomate of the American Board of Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Sports Medicine. He is also a Diplomate of the American Board of Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Wellness. He is also a Diplomate of the American Board of Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Weight Management. He is also a Diplomate of the American Board of Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Health. He is also a Diplomate of the American Board of Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Sports Medicine. He is also a Diplomate of the American Board of Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Wellness. He is also a Diplomate of the American Board of Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Weight Management. He is also a Diplomate of the American Board of Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Health. He is also a Diplomate of the American Board of Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Sports Medicine. He is also a Diplomate of the American Board of Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Wellness. He is also a Diplomate of the American Board of Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Weight Management. He is also a Diplomate of the American Board of Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Health. He is also a Diplomate of the American Board of Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Sports Medicine. He is also a Diplomate of the American Board of Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Wellness. He is also a Diplomate of the American Board of Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Weight Management. He is also a Diplomate of the American Board of Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Health. He is also a Diplomate of the American Board of Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Sports Medicine. He is also a Diplomate of the American Board of Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Wellness. He is also a Diplomate of the American Board of Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Weight Management. He is also a Diplomate of the American Board of Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Health. He is also a Diplomate of the American Board of Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Sports Medicine. He is also a Diplomate of the American Board of Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Wellness. He is also a Diplomate of the American Board of Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Weight Management. He is also a Diplomate of the American Board of Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Health. He is also a Diplomate of the American Board of Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Sports Medicine. He is also a Diplomate of the American Board of Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Wellness. He is also a Diplomate of the American Board of Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Weight Management. He is also a Diplomate of the American Board of Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Health. He is also a Diplomate of the American Board of Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Sports Medicine. He is also a Diplomate of the American Board of Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Wellness. He is also a Diplomate of the American Board of Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Weight Management. He is also a Diplomate of the American Board of Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Health. He is also a Diplomate of the American Board of Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Sports Medicine. He is also a Diplomate of the American Board of Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Wellness. He is also a Diplomate of the American Board of Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Weight Management. He is also a Diplomate of the American Board of Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Health. He is also a Diplomate of the American Board of Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Sports Medicine. He is also a Diplomate of the American Board of Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Wellness. He is also a Diplomate of the American Board of Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Weight Management. He is also a Diplomate of the American Board of Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Health. He is also a Diplomate of the American Board of Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Sports Medicine. He is also a Diplomate of the American Board of Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Wellness. He is also a Diplomate of the American Board of Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Weight Management. He is also a Diplomate of the American Board of Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Health. He is also a Diplomate of the American Board of Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Sports Medicine. He is also a Diplomate of the American Board of Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Wellness. He is also a Diplomate of the American Board of Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Weight Management. He is also a Diplomate of the American Board of Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Health. He is also a Diplomate of the American Board of Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Sports Medicine. He is also a Diplomate of the American Board of Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Wellness. He is also a Diplomate of the American Board of Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Weight Management. He is also a Diplomate of the American Board of Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Health. He is also a Diplomate of the American Board of Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Sports Medicine. He is also a Diplomate of the American Board of Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Wellness. He is also a Diplomate of the American Board of Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Women's Weight Management. He is also a Diplomate of the American Board of Women's Health. He is also a Diplomate of the American Board of Women's Sports Medicine. He is also a Diplomate of the American Board of Women's Wellness. He is also a Diplomate of the American Board of Women's Weight Management. He is also a Diplomate of the American Board of Women's Health. He is also a Diplomate of the American Board of Women's Sports Medicine. He is also a Diplomate of the American Board of Women's Wellness. He is also a Diplomate of the American Board of Women's Weight Management. He is also a Diplomate of the American Board of Women's Health. He is also a Diplomate of the American Board of Women's Sports Medicine. He is also a Diplomate of the American Board of Women's Wellness. He is also a Diplomate of the American Board of Women's Weight Management. He is also a Diplomate of the American Board of Women's Health. He is also a Diplomate of the American Board of Women's Sports Medicine. He is also a Diplomate of the American Board of Women's Wellness. He is also a Diplomate of the American Board of Women's Weight Management. He is also a Diplomate of the American Board of Women's Health. He is also a Diplomate of the American Board of Women's Sports Medicine. He is also a Diplomate of the American Board of Women's Wellness. He is also a Diplomate of the American Board of Women's Weight Management. He is also a Diplomate of the American Board of Women's Health. He is also a Diplomate of the American Board of Women's Sports Medicine. He is also a Diplomate of the American Board of Women's Wellness. He is also a Diplomate of the American Board of Women's Weight Management. He is also a Diplomate of the American Board of Women's Health. He is also a Diplomate of the American Board of Women's Sports Medicine. He is also a Diplomate of the American Board of Women's Wellness. He is also a Diplomate of the American Board of Women's Weight Management. He is also a Diplomate of the American Board of Women's Health. He is also a Diplomate of the American Board of Women's Sports Medicine. He is also a Diplomate of the American Board of Women's Wellness. He is also a Diplomate of the American Board of Women's Weight Management. He is also a Diplomate of the American Board of Women's Health. He is also a Diplomate of the American Board of Women's Sports Medicine. He is also a Diplomate of the American Board of Women's Wellness. He is also a Diplomate of the American Board of Women's Weight Management. He is also a Diplomate of the American Board of Women's Health. He is also a Diplomate of the American Board of Women's Sports Medicine. He is also a Diplomate of the American Board of Women's Wellness. He is also a Diplomate of the American Board of Women's Weight Management. He is also a Diplomate of the American Board of Women's Health. He is also a Diplomate of the American Board of Women's Sports Medicine. He is also a Diplomate of the American Board of Women's Wellness. He is also a Diplomate of the American Board of Women's Weight Management. He is also a Diplomate of the American Board of Women's Health. He is also a Diplomate of the American Board of Women's Sports Medicine. He is also a Diplomate of the American Board of Women's Wellness. He is also a Diplomate of the American Board of Women's

Top fitness trends for 2008

By Mitch Felipe
Contributor

EVERY YEAR, NEW PROGRAMS EMERGE as a response to growing needs of diverse populations and to attract more people to adopt a healthy lifestyle.

Over the years, fitness centers multiplied and personal training sessions were offered not just for body builders, but for the greater populations.

Programs for those with medical concerns like low back pain gained popularity as more many physical therapists become fitness professionals. The trend continued the public that personal trainers did not have to look like those in glossy fitness magazines.

From basic strength training, regimens moved to the use of resistance training machines like leg extensions to compound body weight exercises like squats with upper body exercises.

The use of balls, bands and balance boards were favored by trainers for a more sports-specific, functional and integrated workout session.

Pre-choreographed classes by Les Mills Body Training systems came to the Philippines in 2002. The six programs—Body Balance, Body Pump, Body Combat and Body Jam, RPM, Body Attack and Body Step—were guided by the latest trends in music and latest developments in exercise science.

Last year, Bikram Yoga, a 90-minute class presentation in rooms heated to 105°F with 26 postures guided by an instructor became one of the hottest workouts.

Fitness survey results

Now the American College of Sports Medicine (ACSM) has just released fitness predictions for 2008 based on its annual worldwide fitness trend survey.

The top 10 fitness trends were ranked from highest to lowest based on opinions of health and fitness professionals worldwide:

1. Educated and experienced fitness professionals.

The increasing involvement of educated and experienced fitness professionals tops the list mainly because the industry is giving much importance in offering large populations a wide variety of exercises that are safe and effective.

A certification from groups like the American Council on Exercise (ACE) requires individuals to remain updated on fitness trends and researches by earning continuing education credits through seminars and e-learning.

2. Programs to fight childhood obesity.

The problem of obesity starts in childhood and can be attributed to family upbringing. Kids should be introduced to sports and parents should be role models for healthy eating and active lifestyle.

Some medical school in Manila's eastern suburbs even offer fresh fruits, vegetables, healthy meals and baked snacks. Yoga and dance sessions became part of physical education classes.

More than one million kids are now enrolling can in clubs, according to a joint survey by International Health, Racquet & Sportsclub Association (IHRSA) and American Sports Data, Inc. Children account for 17 percent of all individuals purchasing training services.

3. Personal training

A one-on-one exercise session is recommended if you have special concerns, want to learn about fitness, or are having a hard time sticking to an exercise routine. Knowledge will save you time, money and effort.

4. Strength training

Incorporating strength training into a fitness routine will continue to be emphasized.

Eight to 10 strength training exercises should be done at least twice a week, according to the American Heart Association and ACSM's physical activity guidelines.

5. Core training

Core training strengthens muscles around the spine like the pelvis and abdominal muscles. Its popularity in fitness training is expected as exercises with or without equipment.

6. Special fitness program for older adults

Special programs for older adults to improve strength and balance will be given more attention.

Les Mills' Body Vive, a low impact class integrating aerobic exercise, resistance training and stretching is reportedly suited to active adults in their 40s to 60s.

7. Pilates

A mind/body class that targets core muscles and improves overall strength and flexibility will continue to gain popularity.

8. Functional fitness

Functional exercise mimics movements involved in activities of daily living like climbing stairs or picking up things from the floor. It trains you to do an activity without getting injured. An exercise like steps while holding a medicine ball in front of you can train you to climb stairs while carrying books.

This type of training will help you exercise in less time to meet the demands of your busy schedule. Also, it is more convenient and the benefits more evident since you can apply it to activities of daily living.

9. Swiss ball

The use of a rubber gym ball with variable diameter that allows for a wide range of activities to help improve core strength and balance will also become more popular.

10. Yoga

Various forms of yoga, like Power Yoga and Bikram Yoga, will continue to be employed as fitness activities.

Yoga trains you to be more aware of your body during movements by doing proper breathing relaxation exercises.

Shirley Quejada, Pilates Network Philippines president, foresees the popularity of mind/body exercises like yoga in the Philippines due to the increasing stress levels of the adult population.

E-mail the author at mitchfelipe@gmail.com

Healthy digestion campaign goes nationwide

MANILA BUDGES ITS "MAMMOTHING Bahivera para sa Sigurado Ka Tiyan" Probiotics Comprehensive Adroad Purgasm (CDP) endorsement.

The program, undertaken in partnership with the Department of Education and Mary Lindhurt International (MLM), is currently being implemented in public and private schools in the National Capital Region, Region III and Region IVA.

It will soon include schools in the Visayas and Mindanao.

The program education and creates awareness among grades one and two pupils of the importance of the new lifestyle science of probiotics to achieve a healthy digestive system for a healthy body.

Apart from providing learning aids, students are taken on interactive school tours and invited to participate in the annual Sandcastle Pavel Making Contest, with the theme "Pahang Sikali, Pahang Pinoy."

Sikali Philippines Inc. director Michael Sy Sun Ong said the company had taken pride in producing some of the best recycled Jankenin showcasing the ingenuity of children.

Contestants create Chatamaran symbolic catsup empty Sikali bottles, in addition to other materials.

Winning taxiwave are displayed at the Sikali University in Japan, Ong said.

He said the company was looking forward to the participation of students from Visayas and Mindanao this year.

LIFESTYLE

INSIDE OUT
Cory Quirino

Junking the habit

STEPS TO CLEAR out and clean out promise only one gift—liberation. But to achieve this, you have to decide today to quit all habits that feed your dependency.

Addictions

It is true that people define their own way of living, their lifestyle revolving around their desires and dreams. Often, the stuff that makes life exciting can be addictive as reflected in the expression "if it isn't sinful then it's fattening."

Here is a random list of popular addictions:

Love

Whether you are in a loving relationship, a marriage, a divorce separation, an argument or a breakup, it is love to step in the middle of your tracks and say "It is all about me and what I want to be."

In the need and search for love, there are certain tendencies—some aggressive, others self-destructive. At this point, it becomes a habit worth breaking.

If any situation/person is not to you, it is time to act. The question is how long does it take you to take your power. Before making any move, try this exercise to know where your heart is.

Heart meditation

Sit quietly in the early morning. Close your eyes, focus your breathing and attention to the middle of your chest. Find your spiritual heart directly behind your ribcage, in the center of your heart.

Do not listen to your head here, simply feel. Find that space where the heart is. Soon you will be aware of peace when you let your breath go to your heart center.

Now visualize soft pastel lights. If you sit and listen, your heart will release emotions you have long kept unexamined—fears, wishes, feelings, intuitions.

It is okay if you fall asleep. Just go back to your meditation. Soon you will achieve positive ties. You have listened to your heart without judgment.

Sweets

A craving for sweets is not bad, but when you make it a daily habit to finish a whole box of chocolates or a plateful of pastries, then your craving has reached addictive levels.

Though you may not have diabetes yet, you probably are already a borderline diabetic.

Managing your sweet tooth is possible if, you see:

Substitute a fruit for candy bar, drink the sugar craving when it hits, munch on something healthy before going for that cream puff, eat sweets only during the day eat in the company of friends and not alone.

Why? Studies show that if you sugar binge alone, especially when you are diagnosed, you will exceed your limits.

Alcohol and more

The usual combination during celebrations is the togetherness of alcohol and cigarettes. Any bing or smoker specialist will advise you to drop both habits.

Alcohol is a mood drink. It alters the chemical makeup of the brain and allows you to feel relaxed/inhibited. But the feeling is temporary. When the mood passes, there is a need to drink more or to relive the happiness level.

To the limit, unobtrusively. Have a full meal which contains fat. It is best to drink with others, not alone. Drinking alone will only increase you to finish the bottle. Do not drink when sad or lest you say limit yourself to just two drinks. Instead, be with people that can make you laugh.

Cigarette smoking, while accepted socially, has been found to pose health hazards. If you are intent on quitting, try this:

Change your Friends if you want to change your habits. Peer pressure will keep you from quitting bad habits unless you all decide to stop them. This also applies to drug-related habits.

Without the will to change, **bad habits are hard to give up**, according to Pfizer that conducted decades of research on the challenge of quitting smoking. Did you know that there are 4,000 chemicals in a cigarette? Some have been addictive ones!

Within 20 minutes of quitting your heart rate normalizes, and within 12 hours, carbon monoxide levels in your body will drop to normal.

Quitting may be easier for others. Some have the power to go cold turkey. Others will require help. With Champix Varenicline Tartrate, there is shown an 88 percent chance you could quit the habit.

The oral medication, that blocks a nicotine's pleasures, works on the brain to break an addiction. Though it produces such side effects as nausea and sleeplessness, it remains one of the most promising medications for cigarette smokers to give quitting a try.

So if you were told you could **have a healthier body within 12 weeks**, would you not let yourself be convinced?

Conversion = liberation

When you removed your self-imposed limitations, you are literally granting yourself permission to convert to a new way of loving and living. Once you have conversion, then you can fly. Then and only then will you call your wings.

Love and light!

Celebrate life with Cory Quirino, Nov. 30, at Megamall. Free admission.

LOSE THAT "PREGNANT-LOOKING" BELLY NOW.

If your "pregnant-looking" belly is giving you constant setbacks, it's now time to give birth to a new you.

ELECTRO-LIPOLYSIS at Marie France FOR MEN helps you lose your overexcited belly by melting hard-to-lose fat in the tummy area, giving you flatter abs. See and feel the difference when you lose inches off your waistline.

Be the new you. Call now for a FREE body fat analysis.

Call 813-7959

marie france FOR MEN

MAKATI · BONIFACIO · TOMAS MORATO · SHAW · ALABANG · QUAD · CONGRESSIONAL · MARIKINA · CEBU

Never be afraid to express your beauty.

New color inspired by Oriental beauty

Bigen Silk Touch

with Silk Protein and Ginseng Extract

Show your true color with Bigen Silk Touch. It has silk protein and ginseng extract to make your **Oriental Beauty** shine.

Available in 10 vibrant colors!

NEW

EASY COMB

SILK PROTEIN

GINSENG EXTRACT

EXHIBIT SCHEDULE:

Metro Commercial Department Store, Market Market - November 30 - December 2

hoyu

A diario novela by CARLO J. CAPARAS

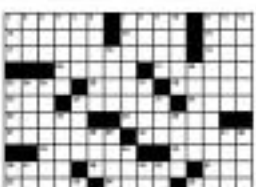
To have to hold

Art: ARNELA AVETRIA

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Actress Ireland
7 Gangsters get
11 Greek X
12 Prime of Lt. Hays
13 "Hell is waiting"
14 Hotel bonus
17 Mockery (obsolete)
18 Aaron Mills
20 Mum reading
21 Dweller
23 Pirates take a wee shower
26 Russian rocket city
28 Cha or Tuesday
30 Tonight cattle
31 Headquarters
33 Use a shaving tool
35 "... I am O"
41 Mass
42 Nameless drama
43 Computer or chef
45 Stop swallow
46 Against
47 Rubber forest
51 Oceans serve
52 Monday
54 Lasso or Snow
55 OR (Lond.)
56 Be present at
58 Tv sound
59 Great deal
61 Mickey's companion
62 Letters of bulk
63 Farmer's reward
64 Drowning
65 Polar pest
66 Tired
71 Lay at rates

DOWN
1 Actor, vita solaris
2 Blurb
3 Commercial years ago
4 "Come" and "Can"
5 Orchestra receives pains
6 Loyalties
7 Novel grabbers
8 Hamlet's mother
9 Happens (old)
10 The Swedish Nightingale
11 Be the up and (2)
12 Heavenly command
13 Many Man
15 Small
16 Supervised
19 Kid in "Happy Days"
22 African elephants
24 Privy to
25 Recklessly
27 Mammoth
29 Tackles months
31 For some in Hamlet
32 Ship
34 Two persons
36 Diary of "Oh, Rose now"
37 "... Lucy Gray"
38 Mid, holland
39 Pirates
41 Designer of Yves
42 Tire
44 Mistik
48 Saudi
49 Country
50 Cats
53 Mists holland
57 Fastened
60 Wood element
61 Inlet
62 Should Rachel the Cats
63 Bernie Carnes
64 Fundamental date
67 To (old woman)
68 Of a female



By Robert H. Wolfe
North Providence, RI

Monday's Puzzle Solved

HOROSCOPE

THE BIG PICTURE: You're extremely active and dynamic. You need to channel your energies into productive activities. Practicality and responsibility are important to you. Your ruling planet is Saturn, the planet of discipline and delayed gratification. You are family and children oriented, and you're also a natural leader. You have a strong sense of duty and obligation to others and you're dedicated to your work. Be careful not to become overly critical. Be more tolerant of others' shortcomings. Be more flexible. Your lucky numbers are 3, 7, 11, 16, 21, 25, 29, 34, 38, 43, 47, 52, 56, 61, 65, 70, 74, 79, 83, 88, 92, 97.

Birthdate of: Jeremy Piven, baseball standout; Jerry Seinfeld, comedian; Michael Nesmith, actor.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Your focus is on your finances and your values now. Discussions and events can support those in need, because the Moon is in sync with Uranus, which makes things a little off-center and unorthodox.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Your focus is on your career and your public life. Today is a good day for making inroads and finishing work. The Moon is in sync with Uranus, which makes things a little hectic, changing, and spicy, with energizers left for the ender of the day. Don't overdo it.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Your focus is on your cash flow and your finances. The Moon is in sync with Uranus, which is shaking things up. It pushes you to mix up with nonconforming, iconoclastic, and unorthodox people. Certainly, your ambition is sure to increase. Two lovers can flare up over little things.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): You might want to take a step back and look at things more objectively. This is because the Moon is in sync with Uranus, which makes you more impatient, restless and excitable. Others will push the envelope.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Your focus is on your home and family. The Moon is in sync with Uranus, which makes you more impatient, restless and excitable. This is also an excellent day for you to be the one kind of innovator or find answers to questions.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Your focus is on your relationships with others. Unconventional people interest you, especially female friends, and surprising.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Relationships are under the microscope. Your ruling planet, Venus, is in sync with Uranus, which makes you more impatient, restless and excitable. You might want to think about how you relate and how you act.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): You're restless and eager to get out and explore today. There are lots of opportunities for fun, get-out-the-door activities and to do something different! Your intuition is extremely sensitive. Go for it.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Others are on your mind. Your ruling planet, Venus, is in sync with Uranus, which makes you more impatient, restless and excitable. You can have stimulating conversations with mysterious insiders, unconventional people.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): You focus is on your home life. Working when dealing with others is extremely important today because the Moon today is directly opposite your sun. Just be careful.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): This is a good day to relax, be with friends, and enjoy yourself. Be impatient. Your energies and emotions—which are high—are ready to explode. Anyone who tries to stop you will meet resistance.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Today is about you and your relationships. Your ruling planet, Venus, is in sync with Uranus, which makes you more impatient, restless and excitable. Stress and anxiety related to intense relationships is lessened.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU

Conceptis SudoKu By Dave Green

9		4	6		7			
						3		
3					2	5	4	
2					4	6		1
				5				
1		6	3					8
	8	9	2					4
		7						
			9		5	2		7

Difficulty Level: ★★

Copyright Puzzles, Plus Ltd. & King Features Syndicate, Inc.

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.

Tips and programs at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle:

1	2	5	9	7	6	3	8	4
6	7	8	2	4	3	5	1	9
9	4	3	8	5	1	6	7	2
8	6	7	4	3	9	1	2	5
4	3	2	5	1	8	7	9	6
5	9	1	6	2	7	8	4	3
7	1	6	3	9	4	2	5	8
3	5	9	7	8	2	4	6	1
2	8	4	1	6	5	9	3	7

MISS Earth contestants had a Body Jam session—a fun, energetic dance exercise where they learned how to kick-box and "hip-hop" for fitness.

Beauty queens share their health secrets

CANDIDATES FOR MISS Earth 2007 took a break from their hectic schedule for a day of fitness and fun during the Miss Ms. Fitness Cup at Fitness First at The Fort.

Sponsored by Fitness First at Glorietta, the event gave contestants a chance to show off their toned bodies.

During the festivities, MISS Earth contestants did some cardio exercises and weight training. They were also treated to a Body Jam session—a fun, energetic dance exercise where they learned how to kick-box and "hip-hop" their way to fitness.

The candidates enjoyed the workout, as they got to master it and exhibit grooviness in the latest dance moves.

After the workout, Miss Earth candidates sampled Slovakia's different nutritional cuisines as they enjoyed Slovakia Pro Weight Management milk, juice-packed fruit yogurt and healthy oats. Some of the candidates shared their health and beauty secrets.

Miss USA Lisa Marie Forbes believes living healthy is very important. "You can't do it all at once. You should take it a step at a time. You gradually do more so you build your strength and stamina."

To maintain her fit and svelte figure, Miss USA runner-up Jessica Sobel says she watches her diet with weight training and cardiovascular exercises.

For Miss Ukraine Andreea Andreeva, a combination of healthy diet and proper exercise is the way to go.

"I choose only healthy foods like fresh fruits and vegetables. I also drink lots of water. I love dancing, which is a fun yet healthy way to exercise."

For these beauties, milk is an important part of their diet.

Miss Lithuania Rhoda Baltimore says, "Milk provides my body with all the nutrients that I need to maintain my weight."

Miss Guatemala Jessica Sobel Reynolds agrees. "Milk gives me the calcium I need to strengthen my bones and gives me good protein."

The beauty contestants also think cute and trends play an important role in achieving good health.

Miss International Indonesia Ivonneveller makes it a point to evaluate sun in her diet. "They are a good source of fibre that helps cleanse my body. That's why I make sure to have it for breakfast."

Miss Earth 2007 Organizer Rosemarie Sison-Arenas, vice president for corporate marketing Jesus Isaac, said, "Partnering with the Miss Earth pageant gives us the opportunity to educate people on wellness and harmony around the world. Through the Seventh Miss Earth candidates not only get to prepare for the much-anticipated beauty pageant, but also inspired other people to adopt a healthy lifestyle as well."

MISS USA Lisa Marie Forbes complements her bust by diet with weight training, cardio exercises.

MISS Slovenska Jessica Sobel Mojsis

MISS Ukraine Galina Andreeva

Football is alive and kicking

WHO SAYS FOOTBALL IS NOT POPULAR in the Philippines?

Not the more than 20,000 people who ganged in the recent two-day Alaska Cup 2007 held at the shifting Coastal Club fields, Ayala Alabang.

More than 250 teams and 3,500 players from Davao, Bacolod, Cebu, Iloilo, Baguio, Subic, Olongapo, Pampanga, Pilar, Cavite, Batangas, Laguna and the host schools and clubs in Metro Manila participated.

Local soccer fans got a glimpse of international-caliber football when Ilo-Ilo Makol, who won Most Valuable Player, led defending champion Baguio Tiger Football Club to victory in the Men's Open category.

Tamsuak Football Club of Iloilo, led by BBF Berjarch Bonitacio, Jessi Sacred Heart Cebu, who settled for second, in the Boys 10. Alonso de Davao won third and Cebu International School round out 4th.

Alonso de Davao, with MVP Erika Fortin, topped the Girls 12. De la Salle Zobel was second, Makati Football Club (FMAH FC) third, and Cebu IS, fourth. Juniors from De la Salle Zobel, 4-1, with their Man Antolin, Shannon Gaspar and Ilan Agullo scoring goals.

Tournament director Tomas Lorenzo, said he felt happy to have helped 3,500 football players have fun and enjoy themselves.

The Alaska Football Cup is sponsored by the Alaska Milk Corporation, headed by Mr. Fred Steven Uytengsu, president, and Joaquin Tello, sports development manager.

Stefanie Phenisee presented De la Salle University-East University of the Philippines-Dilimen in the Ladies Open. Makati FC won in most categories. It won in first place in Boys 16, Girls 16, Boys 19, Boys 14 and Boys 12.

Makati Football School, behind MVP Travis Lotal, won in the Boys 8 over Tamsuak. Alonso de Davao was third and Don Bosco Pampanga fourth.

In the Boys 16, Xavier FC won in second place; Ateneo IS, third; and Alonso de Davao, fourth. MVP was Jacobo Lorenzo of Makati FC. In the Girls 16, in second place was Ateneo de Davao, with MVP Erika Fortin, topped the Girls 12. De la Salle Zobel was second, Makati Football Club (FMAH FC), third, and Cebu International School

GORGEOUS Samantha Edeyan and Wynyard Tria

JOY ESENSALEDO and daughter Monique

MCS Basketball Cebuano marketing director Cecille Fernandez and Boracay's adorable and bestdaddy Mona Vargas Tordecilla

CITIBANK country business manager Mark Jones with wife Jennie, and Boracay's Cristiano and Bonnie Farrero

A fresh, midnight treat for a privileged few

CITIBANK'S Mia and Rosario, Sonya Perez and Francis Cabreray

ALMA Greenberg and Bez Tek-Tac

JOSALA Hall's bar receives admirers Ramona Tanseliano and Cora Dizon

JOSALA Hall's 'A-Z' Champs

MEN NEVER HAD SO MUCH FUN going to a grocery than I did that evening, when Rustan's Fresh launched opened its doors from 8 p.m. to all midnight exclusively to fans of Globasi Gold and Filipinas confections galunggong.

What awaited the privileged few? Quite literally free groceries in a recyclable bag, complimentary while of any brand, matured-looking beer and lemonade, thousands of us much as 50 percent on clothes, accessories, food and lamb, premium seafood items, as well as loads of free-wine-and-dine offers and so much more galunggong.

Hours before the official start of the event, Globasi candlelight gathered outside the hair-raising to the realer Rustan's Bayan market block, would you believe?

Tall, dashing Mark Jones, Globasi's sexy country business manager, happily checked out the mob with his two favourite girls: Jennie, together with Rustan's young power couple Bonnie Tantoco and eye-catching wife the diva B's Cimbatrio Yu T., so love, siblings.

Mark J. said: "We realize people do their grocery shopping as close to home as possible for convenience so we invited residents who work or live in Globasi. We are looking forward to replicating the success of this affair in other communities. With Rustan's great-tasting assistance, this will really be the food for that promise."

Through the queues were long—and I mean long—at the payment counters, even way past midnight, shoppers continued to fill two or three push carts, preparing for their purchases with their Globasi cards.

Imagine shopping till you dropped while sipping wine or beer and nibbling on delicious canapés. Now that's really hard to beat, galunggong.

So wonder what happening was such a tremendous success. The total bill after eight will be at Rustan's supermarket Fresh on Shangri-La Mall, Edsa on Nov. 28. And yes, dahlings, that is only from Globasi and Rustan's Fresh.

Celebrating originality

It was a day-studded occasion hosted by one of the world's premier sports brands. Adidas launched its newest Originals collection at upscale Tribeca, galunggong.

Celebrating the event were television personalities Angel Aquino, Nancy Castiglione and model Judd Rillo, sensation Bets Lawrence. Of course, famed Adidas athletes and sportscasters did not miss such an occasion.

Sportscaster Bill Velasco and Andy Tan-nauta, together with his professional basketball players Larry Rimmler, Wesley Gonzales and Enrico Villanueva, all set around the cute-a-licious store launch, galunggong.

True to adidas original style, the event had lots of exciting and unique activities. Hosted by sportscasters George Recto and Liz Cruz, with Magic 89.9 DJs Sam RG, Mick Rock and Tony Toni, the program opened with a series of performances.

Highlight of the event was the unveiling of winners in the month-long promo contest with the theme, "Me and my Adidas Originals: Celebrate Originality."

Judges included Adidas CPU Joel Ocampo, Vibiz Asia owner Ian Cabaco, adidas Originals brand ambassadors Nancy and Angel, Mixin Philippines editor Bavid-son Fernandez, and Adidas managing director Joey Siegfen who announced the winners.

Emil Perez and Jen Lederman each received a one-year supply of Adidas Originals footwear.

Posing to be a true fashionista Jen-lan-ton, with tons of limited-edition products, the Tiffanie Adidas Originals Concept store also carries limited-edition skyline-inspired Vitruvian design by Ivo C., dahlings.

The Adidas Originals Concept Store is at 2/F, Tiffanie, QC.

Outstanding airline

For exemplary performances in the service industry, Asian Spirit Airlines was named Most Outstanding Airline during the 10th Annual Asia Pacific Excellence Awards (apex).

Receiving the award at the Philippine Stock Exchange Tower in Ortigas Center, Pasig, from Apex's Nestlanus Ruben, executive, and James Lee-Yuhcoban, chair, were Asian Spirit's Noel Odiam, frontline chairman Alicia Spirit.

Bazaar south of Manila

Take note, all you bazaar goers. This one is a must-go-to, galunggong. Nov. 30, Dec. 2, at Ocean Connexcity Center and St. James Parking Lot, Ayala Alabang.

It is going to be the biggest one yet in terms of the number of concessionaires—with more than 500, dahlings.

The variety of products is so enormous you will be able to complete your Christmas shopping list.

Manufacturers, importers, importers and traders from all over the Philippines, from north to south, are participating.

A food pavilion will feature well-known eateries while prizes in the grand raffle include TV sets, DVD players and other welcome items.

Major sponsors include Purefoods, Unilever, Absolut Vodka, Pandesal, Coca-Cola, Viva Musical Works, Magic Publishing, galunggong.

ST. JAMES bazaar committee members Erika Bonnevie, Margie Ermi-Joaquin, Ricky Perez and Tinang Montecillo. Standing: mother and daughter Mina and Nikki Palileo

APEX'S Nestlanus Ruben and James Lee-Yuhcoban with Asian Spirit's Noel Odiam

MAGICIAN Erick Rich, Adidas' Candy Custodio, Bill Velasco and Bobong Mateo

ADIDAS' Joel Ocampo and Joey Siegfen with Bavidson Fernandez

TV PERSONALITIES and Adidas ambassadors Angel Aquino and Nancy Castiglione

MODEL and TV personality Brad Torrey

R&B singer Kris Lawrence

MAGICIAN Conrad Alcaraz with Adidas' Mark Arcenal and Pamela Bo

ADIDAS photo-contest winner Enid Perez exhibits "Evolution"

JEN LEDESMA shows off her winning photo "Woman's Best Friend."

BASKETBALL players Enrico Villanueva, Wesley Gonzales and Larry Rimmler

ENTERTAINMENT
Website: www.inquirer.net/entertainment
Lynn Brenda G. Velarde
view feedback: inquirer.entertainment@inquirer.com.ph or 896-6000 local 353 (Trunk) or 896-6000 local 353 (Direct) or send fax at 896-6160 or 896-6161

INSIDE

More Christmas carols for feuding celebs Dollywood/E6
Piolo and Sam: What's all the fuss? Feedback/E5

Film on teachers Sundance-bound

But Ramona Diaz's 'The Learning' hasn't found enough local supporters

DOROTEA Gardiner and husband Herbert get ready for an interview, while director Ramona Diaz checks the rushes.

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

THE IRONY IS NOT lost on Tony Gloria, head of United Pictures, although Ramona Diaz's new documentary "The Learning" has attracted grants from abroad, it has yet to ink deals with local sponsors apart from Smart.

The documentary, which focuses on a group of Filipino schoolteachers who have migrated to Baliwag, is scheduled by United, the Center for Asian-American Media and the Sundance Institute Documentary Fund.

Diaz, whose previous docu "Imelda" won Best Cinematography at the 2005 Sundance Film Festival, is considered an alumna of that top Hollywood showbiz, said Gloria.

"The initial research and development was sponsored by Sundance," recalled Gloria, executive producer. "Then United came in to help finish the film. It's been very difficult. With very little resources, Ramona shot for a year and a half."

In an interview last June, Diaz told Inquirer Entertainment that she was open to the idea of more financiers coming in.

Tito Velasco, chief operating officer of United Entertainment, told the Inquirer last Saturday that the docu is currently in the middle of "offline editing," keeping in step with the Sundance timetable.

January premiere

It is scheduled to premiere in Sundance late January next year.

"We have a new 10-minute work-in-progress [demo reel] that is very good," Velasco noted, adding that talks with prospective sponsors are ongoing.

In spite of the obstacles, Diaz remained focused in chronicling the life stories of teachers Rhea Tajaon, Mary Angel Abit, Dorotea Gardiner, Grace Amper, among others.

Last June, Diaz documented these teachers' homecomings to their respective provinces—Cebu, Siargao, Ifugao, Cagayan de Oro.

"Their stories are very compelling," Diaz noted. In her end, she recalled, the teachers became diligent in informing the filmmaker of the latest goings-on in their lives.

Gloria feels strongly about this docu. "There have been many untold and TV shows done on Filipino teachers abroad. But there's never been a docu that followed teachers for almost two years."

"Behind keen or rape skirmishes (the more immortal in the schools)," Diaz quipped. Some of the students agreed to be part of the movie; the others refused. "We didn't force them."

Gloria pointed out that while previous attempts to tell the OFW story especially in feature films, were

Thinning hair makes a woman look older. When your hair's health, shine and bounce weaken, it seems your personality is likewise affected. Self-consciousness, diminished self-esteem, even bouts of depression may occur.

Most women who have gone through this harrowing experience say they tried everything to stop hairloss, from special treatments at the salon, to a whole range of over-the-counter products. But nothing worked. Sadly, many "remedies" may have actually made the condition worse. Until they found out the reason why they were losing hair, little could be done to end the problem.

Possible reasons for hairloss

Women's hairloss can be caused by hormonal changes. Female Pattern Baldness (or Androgenetic Alopecia) is a reaction to male hormones in the body (androgens) which can weaken a women's hair. Other factors can be stress, poor nutrition, illnesses and reaction to certain medications, childbirth and menopause, frequent coloring, curling, straightening, and many more. Most causes of hairloss, when they are correctly identified, can be treated with good results.

Getting the facts on why you are losing hair.

Trichology is the study of the functions and problems of hair. A trichologist is someone who has been educated in the subject and is qualified to determine the reasons why your hair is not in good health.

Where do you find a trichologist? One name that has been synonymous with Professional Trichology in the Philippines for more than 25 years: Svensson. Svensson trichologists will examine your hair and scalp and give you advice on what to do.

A trichologist - what does it cost?

Nothing. Svensson trichologists offer in-to-depth Hair & Scalp analysis totally free of charge.

Pre-hairloss symptoms.

Before your hair starts falling out, be aware of early warning signs such as persistent dandruff, flaking, and scalp irritations. Beat hairloss – see a trichologist when you see these signs!

These visible indications sometimes running, and when combined with dirt in the atmosphere, shampoo chemicals or excess softeners, they can block follicles, badly affecting hair growth.

Treatments to help your hair.

Depending on the findings of your Hair & Scalp analysis, you can decide on treatment programs including:

ULTRA PURE REINFORCER - deep-cleans scalp, creates healthier environment for growth. Hair becomes thicker, shinier, more lush.

ULTRA-CURE VOLUMIZER - quickly controls and stops hair fall, helps restore original lushness, volume and softness.

SCALP CORRECTIVE- eliminates dandruff, flaking and other irritations, returns scalp to normal state, prevents recurrent problems.

Make an appointment today to see a trichologist free of charge.
Call Svensson at 889-4343 / 234-0851(Cebu)

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS MOVIE GUIDE

www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

MOVIES/SHOWTIMES/PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

GALLERIA

1 BOOGEYMAN 2 • TRE	6 ENCHANTED
2 ONE MORE CHANCE	7 GREEN PARADISE
3 ANIMAHENASYON	8 THE NANNY DIARIES
4 GAME PLAN	9 ENCHANTED
5 HITMAN	10 BEOWULF

ERMITA

1 ONE MORE CHANCE	6 THE NANNY DIARIES
2 IndieSine: TRIBU	7 BOOGEYMAN 2
3 ENCHANTED	8 GAME PLAN
4 GREEN PARADISE	9 ENCHANTED
5 BEOWULF	10 HITMAN

watch it only at Robinsons Movieworld ERMITA November 21 to 27

METRO EAST

1 BOOGEYMAN 2	5 GAME PLAN LIONS FOR LAMBS
2 ONE MORE CHANCE	6 BEOWULF
3 THE NANNY DIARIES	7 HITMAN
4 ENCHANTED	8 GREEN PARADISE

NOVALICHES

1 ONE MORE CHANCE	3 ENCHANTED
2 BEOWULF	4 HITMAN

PIONEER

1 BEOWULF	3 ONE MORE CHANCE
2 HITMAN	4 ENCHANTED

STA. ROSA

1 BEOWULF	1 ENCHANTED
2 30 DAYS OF NIGHT	2 ONE MORE CHANCE
3 GREEN PARADISE	3 GHOST SON
4 ENCHANTED	4 GREEN PARADISE
5 ONE MORE CHANCE	5 30 DAYS OF NIGHT

DASMARINAS

1 LIONS FOR LAMBS	1 GREEN PARADISE
2 BEOWULF	2 BEOWULF
3 ONE MORE CHANCE	3 HITMAN
4 ENCHANTED	4 ENCHANTED
5 GREEN PARADISE	5 ONE MORE CHANCE
	6 GAME PLAN

ANGELES

1 BEOWULF	1 THE SCREEN: Dark is Rising
2 ONE MORE CHANCE	2 APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT
3 ENCHANTED	3 RENDITION
4 HITMAN	

TARLAC

STARMILLS

1 ENCHANTED	4 GHOST SON
2 ONE MORE CHANCE	5 HITMAN
3 GREEN PARADISE	6 BEOWULF

BACOLOD

1 ENCHANTED	1 BEOWULF
2 ONE MORE CHANCE	2 ONE MORE CHANCE
3 IndieSine: PAIN THINGS	3 ATIKUL FOR RENT
4 BEOWULF	4 ENCHANTED
5 BALLS OF FURY	5 LUST CAUTION
6 GHOST SON	6 GHOST SON

ILOILO

MMTA

METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE

NOW SHOWING

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

Film on teachers...

from page 11

basically "romanticized and fictionalized," "The Learning" presents them "in their worst, worst and all.

"Damone followed. Here from recruitment to their first meeting as babbiyan. There are the stories we don't see in the movies," he explained.

POWER PLANT

ONE MORE CHANCE (PG13) 12:10, 2:40, 5:10, 7:40, 10:10

ENCHANTED 12:00, 2:40, 5:20, 8:00, 10:30

BEOWULF (PG13) 12:30, 2:40, 5:30, 7:50, 10:30

HITMAN (R3) 1:30, 3:40, 6:00, 8:15, 10:30

ENCHANTED 1:00, 3:20, 5:40, 8:10

NANNY DIARIES 12:40, 3:00

SHANG CINEPLEX

ENCHANTED 12:30, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00, 10:30

BEOWULF 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00

HITMAN 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00

ONE MORE CHANCE 12:00, 4:10, 7:10, 10:00

PREMIERE THEATRE

ENCHANTED 1:00, 3:30, 6:40, 9:20

Catch the Cineplex Special

Shang Cineplex Event Club

Enjoy exciting privileges, rewards and discounts. Apply at the Shang Cineplex ticket counters. Log-on to www.shangcineplex.com or call 633-4758 for details

GREENHILLS CINEMAS

THEATRE MART

1 ENCHANTED 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 9:30

2 BEOWULF 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00

PROMENADE

3 ONE MORE CHANCE 12:30, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00, 10:30

4 HITMAN 1:00, 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 11:00

5 ENCHANTED 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00

MAKATI NOW

OPENS TOMORROW!

GENERAL AUDIENCE • All Ages Admitted

vince vaughn paul giamatti

FRED CLAUS

New 'komiks' heroes

CEBUO STUDIOS, AN INDEpendent publisher of comic books, has released the series Ah, Ava, Way: Werewhizzes, based on the rock, paper and scissors game or jack en poy.

Ired Rodriguez created the series, with Jaxx Galino and Eugene Otero Jr. providing the illustrations.

The Pinoy comic book introduces a new breed of characters and a new story direction from each of figurines as super heroes like Gagamboy and Lastikman, who are both based on foreign creations.

The company announced that it will distribute free copies of its first issue to Metro Manila, Cebu and Davao.

For inquiries, call 756-5402.

MUTYA ng Pilipinas 2007 2nd runner-up Bea Taylor with doctors.

ENTERTAINMENT

Beauties raise funds for cancer patients

BRUCE Quoted helps collect donations.

By Aeriis Adlao

BENEFITING PEDIATRIC AIDS MUTYA ng Pilipinas beauties are working together to raise funds for the benefit of cancer patients.

Ladies of the two longest-running titleholder beauty pageants joined PCG-BMO last week in a single activity for the Cancer Warriors Foundation (CWF) at El Pantrello bar in Makati City.

Present were were Mutya ng Pilipinas 2007 2nd runner-up Bea Taylor, 2007 Bb. Pilipinas semifinalist Melanie Adlawan, and 2005 Bb. Pilipinas Tourism Intercity Ashley Aleo, who celebrated her 22nd birthday that night, in a CWF fundraiser.

Bea told Business Entertainment she asked the her owners' permission to collect donations from the guests. She only thinks owners agree, Baccaud, they also vowed to support future endeavors. Margaret Wilson, 2007 Bb. Pilipinas World, currently in China for the Miss World pageant, called to pledge support as well.

Said Bea, "Who would have thought Maryan and Binibini would ever get together for a common cause?"

More beauties are expected to join subsequent events.

Pebody's boyfriend, actor Ryan Quebral, also helped at El Pantrello. Donors received gifts from Ever Bilena cosmetics and Mary Pauline Jakes.

Log on to www.cancerwarriors.org or www.cancerwarriors.org.

Eastwood City presents

Richard Poon

Every Tuesday at 9PM
Eastwood Function Circle
FREE ADMISSION!
Eastwood City

EASTWOOD CINEMAS

ONE MORE CHANCE 2:45, 5:15, 7:45, 10:15
HITMAN 2:45, 5:15, 7:45, 10:15
ENCHANTED 2:45, 5:15, 7:45, 10:15
BECKWILD 7:15, 9:45, 12:15, 2:45, 5:15, 7:45, 10:15

607-6903
GUARANTEED SEATS

Araneta Center | Gateway Mall | SM Megamall

Tomorrow Cine Premiere 10

FULL STADIUM SEATING
EXPERIENCE THE DIFFERENCE

HITMAN	ENCHANTED	BOOGEYMAN 2	
ONE MORE CHANCE	BECKWILD	NANNY DIARIES	
	GAMEPLAN	SUPERMAN	ENCHANTED 1:30 / 4:15 / 7:00 / 9:45 HITMAN 1:30 / 4:15 / 7:00 / 9:45

ARANETA COLISEUM

PBA GAMES
Nov. 25, Wednesday
3:00 pm - NLEX vs. PHOENIX / 5:30 pm - MEGA vs. ALASKA

AKON - LIVE IN MANILA
Nov. 24, Tuesday 8pm

TEN, PICOLO PASCUAL LIVE AT THE ARANETA
Nov. 30, Friday - 8pm

SHECKERS STREETDANCE BATTLE YEAR 3
Dec. 1, Saturday - 1pm

For more inquiries please call Ticketnet at 911-5555 or log on to www.ticketnet.com.ph

AT THE CINEMAS

Reserve your tickets by texting CAPITOL 100 or MARKET! MARKET! 2100 (Globe) or 21212 (Smart) to your numbers and for text reservation. Reservations may change without prior notice. For verification, please call 729-7777

GLORIETTA 1	1 ENCHANTED	2 HITMAN	3 BECKWILD	4 ONE MORE CHANCE
GLORIETTA 4	1 ONE MORE CHANCE	2 BECKWILD	3 HITMAN	
	4 ONE MORE CHANCE	5 ENCHANTED	6 ENCHANTED	7 THE GAMEPLAN
GREENBELT 1	1 HITMAN	2 ENCHANTED		
GREENBELT 3	1 HITMAN	2 ENCHANTED		
	3 ENCHANTED	4 SUPERMAN	5 BECKWILD	
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 ENCHANTED	2 HITMAN		
	3 ONE MORE CHANCE	4 ENCHANTED	5 BECKWILD	
AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 ENCHANTED	2 HITMAN	3 ONE MORE CHANCE	4 BECKWILD
MARKET! MARKET!	1 ONE MORE CHANCE	2 BECKWILD		
	3 THE NANNY DIARIES	4 HITMAN	5 ENCHANTED	
TRINOMA	1 ONE MORE CHANCE	2 THE GAMEPLAN	3 HITMAN	4 BECKWILD
	5 THE NANNY DIARIES / ONE MORE CHANCE	6 ENCHANTED	7? ENCHANTED	

AT THE MALLS

Ayala Malls

Glorietta — Sounds of Christmas: Christmas Carols by Ateneo Concert Choir, November 24, 6pm, Glorietta 4 Park

Greenbelt — Holiday Glass Concert, November 24-25, Dec. 2, 8pm, Greenbelt 4 Park

Alabang Town Center — Seussical The Musical, November 23 to 25, 11am, 2pm & 6pm, Activity Center

Ayala Center Cebu — Mini-Mobil Car Event, November 24 to 25, Activity Center, Paseo and Rotunda Area

Market! Market! — Literacy and Family Outlet Sale, November 19 to 25, Activity Center

Christagifts — Repertory Philippines presents PEDDLER ON THE ROOF, November 9 - December 16, 2007. For inquiries, pls. call 867 4110 or visit www.repertory.philippines.com

Ayala Museum — Opening: THE MUSEUM by Jaume Plensa, November 24 to January 13, 2008, Ground Floor Gallery. For more info, pls. call 757-0107 to 09 loc. 36 or email museum_inquiry@ayalamuseum.org

Tri Nonna — Rhythm Academy: Solo Concepcion with the Augustinian Ladies, December 8, 6pm, Activity Center. Rhythm Academy: Pops Fernandez and The UP Chorus on Jazz and Gershwin, December 14, 6pm, Activity Center

EXCLUSIVE

Opens Tomorrow at
GLORIETTA 4
and GREENBELT 3 CINEMAS

From the director of "Monsoon Wedding" and "Vanity Fair"
Based on the Pulitzer prize-winning author's best-selling novel

THE NAMESAKE

Know where you came from. Forget where you're going.

"A spellbinding exploration of LOVE and BELONGING."
-USA TODAY

Seussical the musical

The Cat in the Hat. Live only at Ayala Malls!

Glorietta Greenbelt Alabang Town Center Ayala Center Cebu Market! Market! Tri Nonna

UNDER FIRE. UNDER PRESSURE. OUT OF TIME.

THE KINGDOM

JAMIE FOXX
CHRIS COOPER
JENNIFER GARNER

HOW DO YOU STOP AN ENEMY WHO ISN'T AFRAID TO DIE?

MICHAEL MANN
PETER BERG

R-13

OPENS TOMORROW

A movie about moving on—and coming full circle

CATHY GARCIA-MOLINA'S LATEST movie, "One More Chance," starts off with a dynamite bang, showing lovers played by Bea Alonzo and John Lloyd Cruz still squabbling after five years of being together. Clearly there's something missing in the "perfect" union of those two beautiful people.

That "something" boils down to his controlling ways, which have rightened like a more strained low penny inch. What to do? He takes a deep breath... and breaks up with him.

At first, he doesn't think she's serious. How could she "throw away" five "beautiful" years, just like that? But, she sticks to her guns with gritted teeth—and he hurts like heck. For weeks. Months, even.

Much later, he and she finally learn to be friends. Then, he gets himself a girl (Maja Salvador)—and Bea finds herself suffering. What gives? We thought she wanted to extricate herself from his asphyxiating embrace, so why is she feeling pangs of jealousy? Could the "perfect" couple ever get back together again?

Well, naturally. That's already the way this movie's plot arc has been structured, so it's only a matter of time before the regulation Happy Ending is worked out.

Sounds a bit forced? Well, that's mainstream cinema for you...cinema typical viewer expectations have to be fulfilled, no matter how sweakly worked out the solution may be.

Which is not to say that "One More Chance" is a bad film. In fact, its first half is frequently funny and dynamic, not just telling the lead lovers' story but also situating it within the chaotic, big context of their mutual friends and

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

supportive relatives. That isn't an easy thing to do well, so the director should stand up and take a well-deserved bow.

Trouble is, she can't sustain the knife pace she's set for herself, and the movie's second half betrays the film's basic weaknesses. There it's clunky scene rather than cinematic (as typified by Ai Tanihara and Susanne Imeneo) who aren't developed properly so they can impinge on the central characters, some exquisite twists and turns to the story, and intelligent (haha like having scribbers

reporters hilarious. That isn't an easy thing to do well, so the director should stand up and take a well-deserved bow.

Trouble is, she can't sustain the knife pace she's set for herself, and the movie's second half betrays the film's basic weaknesses. There it's clunky scene rather than cinematic (as typified by Ai Tanihara and Susanne Imeneo) who aren't developed properly so they can impinge on the central characters, some exquisite twists and turns to the story, and intelligent (haha like having scribbers

flew impressing a building construction site to high heels.

But the movie's most serious lapse is the cliche, cavalier way with which it dispenses of John Lloyd's new love (Shaina), so the original couple's reconciliation can be totally efficient.

Not only does this do an injustice to Shaina's character (what is she 'cased in, one paper?), but it weakens the entire movie's dramatic urgency and believability.

Instead of being as sensitive as director John Lloyd's new girlfriend, this Ellen's director and writers could have dealt with the "triangulated" conflict head on, and the entire effort and human artistic concern could have resulted in a more complex, truthful and emotionally cathartic film.

On point of performances: Bea and John Lloyd do better here than in their previous co-starrers. But John Lloyd should continue to push himself more, so that he doesn't rely on his good looks and facile smile to win points for himself.

Bea is more versatile an actress, occasionally pushing her performance beyond the usual "broken" and "lying" persona she's been stuck in. Still, every time her character arc is artificially aborted by standard mainstream suggestion.

That, by the way, goes double for Derek Ramsay, who's limited to just being a shoulder to cry on for tearful Bea. Given Ramsay's star have been on the ascent, we find it ratherugly unsuitable for its plus points. They show that the production's heart, if not its good judgment, is in the right place.

PHOTO: Pictorial and Gani Milby Yasit lawyer Joji Alonzo during a press conference following the filing of a complaint against writer Lolit Solis. Reuters writer John L. Silva believes ABS-CBN should have consented the two guys to "weather the storm." [illegible]

What is their problem?

FROM John L. Silva (jsilva76@hotmail.com):

AMERICAN IDOL/PUBLIC IDOL TALENT-finders rumors to attract wildcat wannabes the multimillion-peso jackpot just filled by anyone Pinoy-Pinacial and Sam Milby against gossip columnist Lolit Solis for insinuating that they're gay. In 1986, Tab was at the peak of his career. The handsome "boy-next-door" was the bowling mate in movies with co-stars like Lorna Tolentino, Nanette Medved and Sophia Loren. He starred in a naked James Dean and Marlon Brando and his studio, Warner Brothers, made a lot of money on him. He went into singing and released his first major instrumental hit "Young Lovers." Everyone had a crush on Tab that nite Valentine's Day he re-corded over 50,000 handwritten telegrams for everything was on the up for the young star despite the fact he was gay.

'Tomorrow's toilet paper'

Tab wasn't out then but in his self-all autobiography released in 2005, Tab Hunter Confidential: he talked about a Hollywood populace well gay producers, directors, writers, and actors.

At the height of his career, Universal Studios' magazine, ran a story about Tab caught by the police after raiding a private gay party. Tab was worried but his producer the movie mogul Jack Warner didn't pay the controversy any mind nor issue statements nor denied that Tab is gay. Warner Brothers simply told Tab: "Remember this. Today's headlines, tomorrow's toilet paper."

Lolit Solis was supposed to have more, with her own four eyes, Pinkerton Yasit in an intimate encounter at a hotel poolside magazine, one's

Carols for celebs, Part 2

I WAS INSPIRED WITH E-MAIL FROM readers saying they enjoyed the Christmas carols I made up for leading celebs. Here's a part two, all in the spirit of good Yuletide cheer.

I must say, mom doesn't champion the holiday spirit by getting jokes. Lighten up like your Christmas tree, sweetie!

Gretchen Ho to Emma Dolan-to (in the tune of "Silent Night"):

"Silent tree, Shining so free!
Even in a gown, Hair to thigh
Round the studio bus
My treasure and bonus
Eh ano naman kung
Marun ako tsar?
Sleep to us long and drunken phrase.
Sleep and drunken phrase"

Angel Locsin to ABS-7 Bigwigs ("Do You Hear What I Hear?"):

"Said my manager to Annie Gonzalez/Do you see what I see
Way up in the sky, E! Entertainment/Do you see what I see
A star, a star watching networks/Million TV-ering as ratings' push/Million TV-ering as ratings' push."

Lani Mercado to all women linked to her husband Bong Revilla ("Frosty the Snowman"):

"Bong my dear Husband
Is a Bong happy soul
With a cosplayer and a hairdresser
And two chicks ever to make you fall
Bong my dear husband
Is legendary, women say
He sure made of more for his children leave
How they all came with one day."

John Estrada to Gretchen Barretto ("Let It Snow"):

"Oh, the forest scenery is frightful
But your kiss is so delightful
And since we've no place to go/ Let me ply you, let it show, let it show."

Dolly Anne Carvajal

James Yap to Hope Centeno ("It's Beginning to Look a lot like Christmas"):

"It's beginning to look a lot like Krissy TV/Everywhere you go.
Take a look in the billboards, glistening once again
With baby James and silver linen nylons
It's beginning to look a lot like Krissy.
For her in every store,
But the scandalous sight to see is naked rage
Behind closed doors."

Dennis Trillo to Carlene Aguilar and Cristine Reyes ("All I Want For Christmas Is My Two Front Teeth"):

"Every body sings
And dances in me
There two gilt-ass
And no excuse me
I don't know just who
To blame for this catastrophe!
But say one wish on Christmas Eve
Is as plain as it can be!
All I want for Christmas
Is my two girlfriends
Is my two girlfriends
Is my two girlfriends"

E-mail: entertainment@philstar.com

PATRICK Page, right, star of "Dr. Seuss' How The Grinch Stole Christmas!" greet youngsters at the St. James Theatre as performances resume in New York on Friday.

Curtains up for Dr. Seuss

NEW YORK—THE GRINCH—NOT to mention all those singing and dancing Whos—came back to Broadway Friday, two weeks after the musical about Dr. Seuss' cole-hearted green monster was shut down because of the stagehands strike.

When actor Patrick Page, dressed in his furry chartreuse costume, shrank on stage at the St. James Theatre, the crowd erupted in cheers. It was the first performance of "Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas!" since Nov. 9, the musical's opening night.

The walkout by Local 1, the stagehands union, also following day after down more than two dozen plays and musicals.

First in history

Producer James Nanos said just before the 11 a.m. performance that the first ever holiday! began. "This may be the first time in Broadway history a producer has made a certain speech on two consecutive performances. The first one was a traditional one on our opening night and now 14 days later on our reopening. But if there is ever was a show and a company that deserves to be back, it is ours. I am very proud and humbled the way the whole company rallied around us on this."

Townsgown rallied in front of the theater, working their way through expenses and TV crews to get in. Across the street at the dark Majestic Theatre (which houses "The Phantom of the Opera") pickets from Local 1 quietly walked in solitude.

Producers launched $20 museum program (which includes a "Grinch" [unpack]).

Mark Cleveland, his wife Nada, and their two sons, 10-year-old Aiden and 8-year-old Connor, had come from the Netherlands Antilles to see the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade and, also maybe some shows. They were leaving for Los Angeles immediately after seeing "Grinch."

Sara Micallef of Brooklyn was our front. His 13-year-old daughter Marissa, 8, is "Grinch," playing Scullay Who. He had brought along Marissa's 10-year-old sister, Gianna, as well as the girls' aunt, Carol Davis of San Diego, to see the musical.

"We think 'Grinch' is an important show" Davis said. "It has a really good message."

The reopening of the $6 million production was ordered Wednesday by state Supreme Court Justice Helen Freedman, saying "I think one Grinch in town is enough."

Her ruling came a day after the board arguments from producers of the show and Jujamyn Theaters, which owns the St. James. Producers, citing a special contract between the show and Jujamyn, wanted the show to go on.

The judge said her decision was based on a provision of the theater lease, adding that she believed the production company would be is reputably harmed if the show wasn't permitted to resume its run.

Limited run

"Grinch" is on a limited holiday run through Jan. 6. It had 33 performances scheduled for Thanksgiving week, one of Broadway's most lucrative times of the year.

The dispute between Local 1 and the League of American Theaters and Producers has closed 26 other Broadway productions.

Stagehands—who include scenery and prop handlers, carpenters, electricians and lighting and sound technicians—have been working without a contract since the end of July. The labor dispute is focused on how many workers are required to open a Broadway show and keep it running.

Eight other shows, who use musicians have separate contracts with the league, remain unaffected by the walkout. All 18 Broadway productions are open, too.

NOW SHOWING

AM LIBRAN'S highly-acclaimed

Tribu

OFFICIAL SELECTION 2007 Pusan International Festival
OFFICIAL SELECTION, 24th Bucks and Wise Asian-Focus on New Cinema
WINNER, Best Picture, CINEMALAYA 2007
WINNER, Best Actress, CINEMALAYA 2007
WINNER, Best Screenplay, CINEMALAYA 2007
WINNER, Best Sound, CINEMALAYA 2007

NOVEMBER 21 to 27

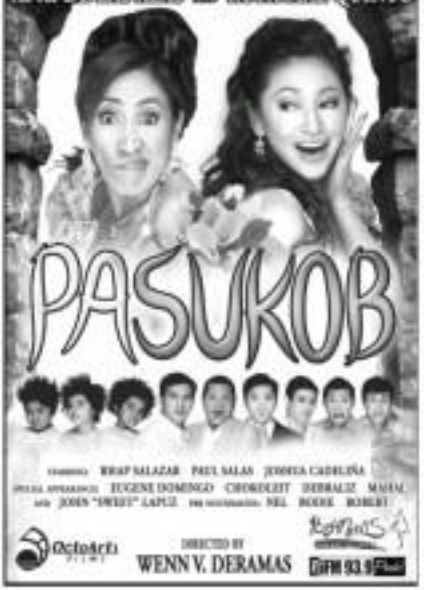
DON'T MISS THIS ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME EXPERIENCE!

ONLY AT INDIESINE, ROBINSONS ERMITA

OPENS TOMORROW
IN MORE THAN 100 THEATERS NATIONWIDE
BONGGANG-BONGGA! SOBRANG SAYA!

ANTHONY AQUITANIA DJ DURANO and ANDREA

AI AI DELAS ALAS and RUFFA MAE QUINTO



RHAP SALAZAR PAUL SALAS JENNIFER CAPELIÑA
SPECIAL APPEARANCES EUGENE DOMINGO CHORELEIT DEBRALIZ MAHAL
with JOHN "SWEET" LAPUS and introducing NEL BOBBY ROBERT

OctoArts Films

DIRECTED BY WENN V. DERAMAS

Offm 93.9

The Grandest Christmas Bazaar in the Country!

the 7th World bazaar festival

December 6-16, 2007
World Trade Center Metro Manila

CICG

Media Partners:

www.worldbex.com

488 Boni Ave. cor. San Joaquin St. 1550 Mandaluyong City
Tel.: 531 6350; 534 1334; 531 6374; 534 3615